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# THE TIMES

Arthur Scargill: Why  
the unions  
must fight, page 14

## Commons vote brings TV coverage nearer

The House of Commons yesterday showed a shift of opinion in favour of televising its proceedings, but the change of view came only with the casting vote of the Deputy Speaker after a tied vote on Mr Austin Mitchell's Private Member's Bill. Among its supporters is Mr St John-Stevas, Leader of the House.

## Tie shows shift of opinion in favour

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster  
The House of Commons voted yesterday for the first time in favour of television coverage of its proceedings, but only after a tied vote, 201 to 201, and the casting vote of the Deputy Speaker, Mr Bernard Weatherill.

Mr John Stokes, Conservative MP for Halesowen and South-Staffordshire, introduced the Bill. He said Parliament's greatest days were when its proceedings were not published in any way.

Mr Stokes painted a gruesome picture of television cameras beaming in to pick out the luckless MP who was having a quiet dose, or to lay stress on the sensational, the trivial or the scandalous.

Some MPs might even try to hog the cameras, and homes would be governed by carles, shrieks, hysteria, shouting and gestures. Indeed, not a pretty thought.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr James Callaghan were among the 224 MPs who did not vote on Mr Mitchell's motion, but that does not mean they will not be given a chance later this session to express a view.

Special time may be provided  
If Mr Mitchell's Bill has to take its place in the queue of Private Member's Bills on March 7, there is little chance of it being reached.

The Government may decide, in view of the equal vote, that special time should be provided. Those opposed to televising the House claim that this is unlikely because, with the Government committed to reducing public spending, the estimated cost of £1,500,000 for the introduction of television will rule it out.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, and most of his colleagues, voted for the motion, but Mr Clement Freud, MP for the Isle of Ely, the party's official spokesman on broadcasting, voted against.

Ministers who voted for the motion included Mr Mark Carlisle, Mr Norman Lamont, Mr Michael Marshall and Mr Alex Fletcher.

Opposition chief whips, Mr Michael Jopling and Mr Michael Cocks, and their deputies, Mr J. Etrudling Thomas and Mr Walter Harrison, voted against. Members of the shadow Cabinet who voted for the motion included Mr Michael Foot, Mr Wedgwood Benn, Mr Denis Healey, Mr John Silkin, and Mr Eric Varley. Sir Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, also voted in favour of allowing the cameras in.

Ministers who voted against included Mr David Howell, Mr Paul Channon, Mr Neil Marten, Mr John Stanley, Mr Hector Monro, Mr Norman Tebbit, Mr David Mitchell, Mr MacLennan, Mr Douglas Burd, Mr Robert Fingrove and Mr Geoffrey Finsberg.

Parliamentary report, page 8



Photograph by Brian Harris

New army plan: Members of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zimpro force seen taking exercise at Romeo, one of the assembly points for guerrillas in Southern Rhodesia.

Mr Nkomo said yesterday that negotiations were taking place to establish the nucleus of a new integrated Zimbabwe army (Nicholas Ashford writes from Salisbury). He did not say with whom the talks

were taking place, but the supposition is that commanders of the Rhodesian security forces have been involved. Mr Nkomo said he had not seen Mr Robert Mugabe since his partner in the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance returned at the weekend from Mozambique.

Lord Soames, the Governor, announced yesterday that Rhodesian forces had assumed responsibility from the South Africans for the protection of the Rhodesian side of Beit Bridge. The announcement came on the eve of the United Nations Security Council debate on Rhodesia in which the controversial issue of South Africa's military presence in Rhodesia is expected to be one of the main issues.

A spokesman for Lord Soames said the transfer of forces had been taking place during the day and was expected to be completed by nightfall. The South African troops issue has probably been the most difficult problem Lord Soames has had to deal with. It is widely believed there are other South African units operating as part of the Rhodesian security forces. This has not been officially confirmed. Mugabe will win, page 6

## US anxiety over hostages after Iran warning of revenge on Canada

From David Cross  
Washington, Jan 30  
The Carter Administration is understandably delighted at Canada's coup in smuggling out six American Embassy employees from Iran but also worried about the possible impact of the escape on the 53 hostages left behind.

Mr Sadeq Qorbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, vowed today to make Canada pay for smuggling the diplomats out (Reuters reports from Tehran). We indicate that sooner or later, somewhere in the world, Canada will pay for the action they have taken," he said. The Foreign Minister added that the clandestine departure of the six would probably make conditions worse for the remaining American hostages.

After a long lull in the Iranian crisis during which efforts to secure the release of the 53 hostages in the embassy and the three diplomats in the Foreign Ministry seemed to be getting nowhere, the escape has provided a much needed fillip both for the Administration and for the American public.

The Canadian Embassy here has reported a flood of congratulatory messages from all over the United States from ordinary citizens, greatly cheered that someone has at last got the better of the Iranian authorities.

Newspapers and the television networks, of course, have made much of the story and are poised to interview as many of the escaping diplomats as they can once they return to this country from their seclusion at an American military base in West Germany.

Today's newspapers are already filled with interviews with their friends and relatives, as well as with an American tourist who escaped with them from the embassy building last November and managed to get back to the United States without the assistance of the Canadians.

Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that many more of the details of the escape will be forthcoming until the hostages are finally released. A State Department spokesman said that the rescued diplomats will be allowed to talk to the press when they return to this country after rest and talks with State Department officials, but he made it clear the diplomats were being advised to be discreet with their revelations.

The whole affair was "an extraordinarily sensitive matter", a State Department spokesman said today, and the less it was "blown up" the less harm was likely to befall the hostages.

White House and State Department officials have made it clear that they would have preferred to escape to remain secret as long as possible in the interests of the hostages although they accept that this would have been extremely difficult once the fleeing diplomats returned to their homes.

Continued on page 6, col 1

## Mrs Thatcher fails on EEC budget summit

By Fred Emery  
Political Editor  
Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday acknowledged, with open disappointment, that an early EEC summit to settle her demand for a reduction in Britain's more than £1,000m net budget contribution, is unlikely.

Instead of next month—as the Prime Minister had accepted as her part in the compromise to last month's EEC summit is unlikely to be held before March 31.

At the close of her two-day talks, with Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister and current EEC President, the chances of his securing an earlier summit were left half open.

But Mrs Thatcher admitted at a London press conference: "I do believe it would be fatal to have another early summit unless we were a long way towards agreement. There is no point in going to a special summit just to argue among ourselves. One needs to get the negotiations almost to completion and the completion to be at the next summit."

She admitted she was a "little disappointed", but patience was not, she said, "one of my most obvious characteristics but I am trying hard to learn it now."

The postponement will prevent the Government from including any EEC "rebate" on the credit side in the White Paper due in March on the tighter round of expenditure cuts in 1980-81. In asserting that £2,000m more cuts were her target, Mrs Thatcher frequently stated that this either included the expected EEC £1,000m, or a substantial part of it.

Now, as in last November's White Paper, the Government will have to include the full total as constituting expenditure.

Mrs Thatcher had set out demanding a "broad balance" in Britain's EEC payments and receipts, and demanded that it be agreed by the Dublin summit last month. When the other countries' leaders balked, a last minute compromise was that a February summit should be sought.

Afghan crisis: The Afghan invasion has brought home to Europe the urgent need for a new means of rapid consultation with the United States which must be ready and working before the next international crisis breaks (Peter Nichols writes).

Mrs Thatcher said after her talks with Signor Cossiga, that they had not yet arrived at devising the right mechanism for this quick consultation. There were still further discussions to be undertaken within the Community. Signor Cossiga was similarly reticent. Photograph, page 3 Budget plan, page 5 Leading article, page 13

## Tanker oil 'pirated' before sinking

Paris, Jan 30.—A supertanker with a 560m (about 226m) cargo of oil that sank off the coast of Senegal on January 17 may have had its 153,000 tonnes of high grade oil "pirated" off before it went down.

A Tunisian crew member of the ship who came through Paris on his way home after the sinking has told marine insurance investigators of a bizarre tale of high seas skulduggery and oil dealing, resulting in the intentional sinking of the ship.

Insurers stand to lose \$84.2m for the loss of the 213,928 tonnes deadweight and its cargo. The Salem had papers showing it was enroute from Kuwait to Italy around the southern tip of Africa when it went down.

It had changed owners just one month before and had its name changed before new insurance was taken out, officials said. Insurance officials were first alerted when a British tanker sighted the Salem listing heavily off the West African coast. It picked up two lifeboats with a 24-man crew when it sank shortly afterwards.

The Tunisian sailor told investigators that after leaving Kuwait the Salem made an unscheduled stop off the coast of South Africa. He said that oil was unloaded by the British ship 30 hours later.

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A mysterious explosion followed and the ship started to settle slowly in the water, the sailor said.

## 'Newsnight' dispute is settled

By Kenneth Coaling  
Newsnight, the combined current affairs and news programme which BBC 2 hoped to present for the first time on Monday, went out last night after management assurances that the chances of its securing the licence were slim.

Both sides agreed yesterday that monitoring arrangements should be set up to ensure smooth working between the news and current affairs camera teams and reporters—the first time they have been combined for a programme for 20 years.

The union, after a meeting of its inter-branch liaison committee, insisted that the premise of like working with like—no "mixing" of news camera teams with current affairs staff and vice-versa—should be maintained.

The important concession that led to the go-ahead for Newsnight was that in the rare circumstances where it might be necessary to mix staff it should be done with the authority of the programme's editor.

Mr D. A. Hearn, general secretary of the staff association, said: "We decided to cooperate with the programme in view of assurances we were given on Tuesday. There will be a monthly review by a monitoring committee and a general review of the whole thing in three months."

The BBC emphasized that they had never intended to merge the news and current affairs department. "All we wanted was to bring together their skills and resources for the new programme", they said.

Negotiations on new working arrangements to cover Newsnight began a year ago, but when the BBC said it was to start on Monday the union felt this was "jumping the gun". An "olive branch" was held out yesterday when the BBC restored to the payroll association members who walked out.

## Police see man over arms find

By a Staff Reporter  
A man was being questioned by the police and Ministry of Defence security officers yesterday after the discovery of arms and equipment in a bungalow at Somming, near Reading, Berkshire.

The arms were discovered last Friday by detectives from Thames Valley police during a routine search. Earlier the police arrested two men in Nottingham on suspicion of stealing government property.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that the equipment consisted mainly of conventional small-calibre ammunition, much of it inert, and a number of small calibre weapons.

The Ministry dismissed earlier reports that the find had included parts of a guided missile, and said that many of the weapons were of no more than historical value.

Police who reclaimed the items said that they included Soviet Union and other eastern bloc countries, which had been recovered from battlefields in the Middle East.

## Union hopeful on steel appeal

Mr William Shea, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, appealed to his members to obey the Court of Appeal injunction forbidding industrial action against the private sector. Confederation leaders are confident that the Law Lords will allow an appeal against the injunction to be heard on Friday.

## Carter plan to break Mid-East deadlock

Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special Middle East envoy, is expected to put forward proposals at today's round of ministerial talks in Tel Aviv designed to bridge the wide gap between Israeli and Egyptian proposals for Palestinian autonomy.

## Post office changes

Sir William Barlow, the Post Office chairman, told a Commons select committee he wants legislation designed to split the Post Office into two businesses to end the requirement for individual deliveries. Changes would also allow entrance "gates" letter boxes and single boxes covering whole estates.

## Snooping in Germany

Visions of Big Brother are disturbing West Germans, who learn that police are examining electricity bills in a hunt for terrorists. The terrorists ask their landlords to pay such bills to conceal their own names.

## Fire war on crime

Tough legislation strengthening the hand of the Irish Republic's police in the fight against crime is being prepared by the Minister for Justice, Mr Gerry Collins, "to remove some of the advantages" enjoyed by criminals.

## Heart transplant: Schoolgirl whose heart was used in latest operation also left her kidneys and corneas for medical purposes

Anti-abortion rally: Mr John Corrie tells supporters after London march that his Bill does not go far enough.

## Survey on maths reveals decline

The first national survey of the performance in mathematics of 11-year-olds in England and Wales has shown there is a sharp decline when they apply basic knowledge in more complex settings.

Leader page 15  
Letters: On the invasion of Afghanistan, from Mr Vernon Bartlett, and others; on the abortion law, from Mr John Corrie, MP, and Professor Glanville Williams, QC.

Leading articles: Labour Party and Afghanistan; Italian Prime Minister in London; Korea, north and south; Books, page 9; Lord Butler reviews fiction; Arts, page 13; John Higgins meets Meryl Streep, the fast-rising screen actress of the moment, who stars in The Seduction of Joe Tynan, which opens in London next week.

Features, pages 12, 14  
Ronald Burg on European diversity; Peter Evans on the Special Patrol Group; Guest Sport, pages 10, 11; Football: Real Madrid release Cunningham to play for England; Business News, pages 17-22; Stock markets: Equities and gilts retreated yesterday, on profit taking and a speech from the Chancellor on interest rates. The FT Index fell 6.4 to 457.6.

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## HOME NEWS

# Mr Sirs urges steelmen to obey ruling as union voices its confidence over appeal outcome

By Paul Routledge

The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation yesterday went to considerable lengths to demonstrate its commitment to legality before the Law Lords gave judgment on the extension of the state steel strike to the private sector.

It has sent a circular to branch secretaries rescinding all previous instructions to 30,000 private industry steelworkers to strike and picket. Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, urged members to obey the Court of Appeal injunction against industrial action.

Lay officials of the union were told that the steelworkers' executive had voted to abide by the Denning decision "in the knowledge that our application for leave to appeal against the judgment is to be heard on Thursday and, if successful, then the hearing of the appeal would take place the following day".

ISTC leaders were guardedly confident yesterday that the Law Lords would allow their appeal to be heard and would overturn the lower court's judgment in their favour. The private sector strike would then be reimposed by the union's executive tomorrow night.

Mr Sirs spent most of the day in wage negotiations with private sector employers belonging to the Midland Wages Board. The talks were ad-

journing for a week after the companies offered a 13 per cent increase to 4,000 workers in the region. However that was rejected.

Mr Sirs then joined Mr Hector Smith, general secretary of the other main union involved in the strike, the blastfurnacemen, for discussions with Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, on progress made in talks between the British Steel Corporation and unions representing craft and general workers.

Those unions have reached agreement in principle on a pay and productivity scheme with British Steel, but the steelworkers and blastfurnacemen are unimpressed by the corporation's latest offer.

Mr Sirs said in Birmingham: "I understand the strong feelings of our people. They have been subject to a dispute not of our choosing. But I must urge, once again, that they carry out the decision of the democratically elected leadership of the union to meet the requirements of the Court of Appeal."

The blastfurnacemen, whose union is not named in the Court of Appeal injunction, continued picketing yesterday, in some cases taking the place of ISTC

workers to avoid legal conflict. The union will take over some private sector picketing, Mr Smith said yesterday. "Our boys will be picketing as normal. There is no injunction on us."

A TUC delegation is to meet Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, Chancellor, and Sir Keith Joseph and Mr James Prior, Secretaries of State for Industry and Employment, this afternoon to press union demands for subsidies on United Kingdom-produced coking coal and for greater consultations on British Steel's plant closure programme.

The unions want British Steel to lose 52,000 jobs over the next eight months to be suspended to allow time to reach a "reasonable accommodation" on the future of steelworks.

Welsh miners are threatening all-out strike from March 10 if British Steel does not go back on its proposal to run down the steel industry in the area. Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire miners, told *The Times* last night that if *The Times* South Wales miners picket coalfields, "I cannot imagine any of my members crossing those picket lines".

He called on the TUC to assist the steelworkers and said that if the appeal failed it might be necessary for the TUC to discuss overall tactics in the light of the judgment.

Scargill profile, page 14

## Why Law Lords have found common cause with unions against Court of Appeal's industrial decisions

### Suspicion that Lord Denning is biased

By Marcel Berlins

Legal Correspondent

The Law Lords are strange bedfellows of the trade unions, but they have, in recent years, found common cause in not finding pronouncements by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, to their liking.

There will be an air of *deja vu* about today's request by the steel union for leave to appeal to the House of Lords against last week's Court of Appeal decision.

Most of the Law Lords—and, it must be said, many other members of the judiciary—believe that Lord Denning is an over-zealous and passionate advocate for justice to the way of his adherence to the law.

Trade unions feel that Lord Denning is anti-union—a view now shared by almost the whole labour movement. They sincerely believe that he is manipulating the law in order to favour employers and to bash unions; and that this is a political stance, not a legal one.

They point to some of his extra-judicial remarks, when, for instance, in a speech in Canada last year, he said that the power of the trade unions posed the greatest threat to the rule of law.

Mr Michael Foot responded by saying that the remark was grotesque and that Lord Denning had made an ass of himself.



Lord Denning: Another 3-0 score against him?

His book, *The Discipline of Law*, published last year, raised the same issue: whether the courts of law could restrain associations who abused or misused their powers, he said "the most important question affecting society today".

Then he said it clear that trade unions were uppermost in his mind.

Even if they did not have his public, non-judicial statements to go on, the unions have found adequate ammunition in some of the cases Lord Denning has decided, especially over the last three years.

In 1977 at the suit of a private person, his court granted an injunction stopping post office unions from going ahead with a proposed boycott of South African mail. In doing so he criticised the Attorney General, then Mr Sam Silkin of the Labour government. The House of Lords, by a 5-0 majority, eventually reversed that decision, upheld the Attorney General, and had a few harsh (by police legal standards) words to say about Lord Denning's approach.

Last year alone Lord Denning made some critical remarks about the unions whose "unlawful" conduct had caused the schools to shut in Harrogate; he attacked the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service and suggested it was in danger of becoming a "tool of powerful trade unions"; and his Court of Appeal upheld an injunction against the National Graphical Association forbidding it from blacking certain advertisements, with Lord Denning making some trenchant remarks about the union's interference with the freedom of the press.

Perhaps most spectacularly, he stopped the National Union of Journalists from telling its members to black copy prepared by the Press Association, in doing so formulating two criteria governing the definition of a "trade dispute" which would render the trade union's immunity inoperative.

Once again the House of Lords majority against Lord Denning was 5-0.

## End of post deliveries to flats forecast

By Patricia Tiedall

Management Correspondent

An end to postal deliveries to individual flats in blocks was predicted by Sir William Barlow, the Post Office chairman yesterday.

Sir William told a House of Commons Select Committee that he would like to see the new legislation due to go before Parliament in the autumn drop the legal requirement for individual deliveries to flats where there is a common entrance.

The legislation, although primarily designed to cut the Post Office into two businesses, one dealing with telecommunications and the other with postal and banking services, will also consider other aspects of the operation, including a possible relaxation of the onepost rule held by both sectors.

The Post Office is at present compiling its views on the for the legislation should take, it expects to submit the to the Secretary of State for Industry in the next three months.

A change in the law would also enable such developments as "garden gate" letter boxes and single boxes covering housing estates to be installed. As present Britain gives a more comprehensive delivery service than any other country in the world and "sweeping changes may be needed if it is not to become too expensive", Sir William said.

An increase in the number of delivery points will drop in the volume of mail is said to be one of the reasons why postal productivity has declined. According to the Post Office, an extra postman is needed for every 400 new addresses.

Another economy which is "under consideration" is the reduction to a single delivery each day. That has already been introduced in some rural areas and an extension was included in proposals made by the Post Office to the Carter Review Committee in 1977.

The Post Office wants to have the number of deliveries and spread the remaining service over a considerably longer period. The argument is that "once over the ground" service would help to overcome the problem of uneven loading of

work and make more effective use of postmen.

With staff charges accounting for over 80 per cent of overheads there was little scope for increased productivity without changes in the service, Sir William said.

He rejected the accusation by POUNC that the 2p increase in post tariffs due to take effect on Monday was a "soft option". If it had not increased our prices now we could not have met the Government's financial target for 1979-80.

Productivity in terms of the volume of mail handled per postman per hour had declined in the 10 years to 1975. Since then it had increased slightly until last year when there was a further decline. Standards of service which fell sufficiently below acceptable levels last summer for Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, to order a special investigation have recently improved.

Discussions are in progress between the Post Office and the Department of Industry about a new financial target for telecommunications after a recent downward revision of assets.

The target had been set at 5.5 per cent return on net assets, valued at replacement cost for three years starting in April. Sir William would like to see a new figure of 61 per cent introduced which he considers would allow for fund to be generated for investment in new equipment.

The Post Office is in the middle of a very large investment programme, costing over £1,000m to install new telephone exchange equipment. So far much of the investment has been financed internally, but Sir William would like to see more flexibility to finance investment from loans than is present available under the existing cash limits.

## Lorry driver hurt by stone outside plant

A lorry driver was struck in the face by a stone when violence flared on a picket line outside the private steel firm of Hall and Pickles at Poynton, Cheshire yesterday. No arrests were made.

The company said that men wearing ISTC "official picket" badges were among a group of flying pickets outside the works.

Mr Alan Davis, divisional director, said 10 lorries were pelted with stones as they left the plant to deliver steel to private firms.

"A stone flew in through the side window of one cab and hit a driver in the face. His nose was bleeding and he was carried to hospital," he said.

There was confusion among steel workers yesterday with some returning to their jobs and others maintaining that they would stay out until they received written confirmation of the ISTC executive's decision to strike and picket.

Mr Michael Skelton, strike coordinator of the ISTC, said the men were likely to continue picketing gas individuals even after they had received instructions.

About 200 pickets were drafted to private firms and stockholders throughout the Midlands yesterday.

Today the Corby strike leaders have called for additional pickets to be sent to three fresh targets.

Mr Skelton said: "As far as I am concerned, we are carrying on until we receive different instructions by letter. Then I am prepared to pass on any instructions to the men, but if they insist on picketing, that's up to them."

He said that if the union's appeal was dismissed, picketing was likely to continue. "The men are hell bent on carrying on," he said.

Corby steel workers on strike, estimated at more than 3,000, believed that for the last few days, with the indecision and confusion over the call to spread the strike, they had been living in an Alice in Wonderland world, he said.

The waiting for letters had simply increased their determination to see a satisfactory end to the strike, he said.

Tension at the Corby plant mounted yesterday after Mr Harold Ford, managing director of the plant, gave a warning that the strike could lead to a 10 per cent loss in orders which could, in turn, lead to further job losses. Already 5,500 jobs are due to go from the plant between March and September.

Three union officials from the

Corby branch of the ISTC have been suspended from office because they had been refusing to go on strike. A fourth official has resigned.

There are an estimated 200 steel workers still engaged in the plant to work, including a number of ISTC ebers.

Arthur Osman writes from Birmingham: Black Country steelworkers were in a forceful and uncompromising mood. A tour of some of the private manufacturing and re-rolling plants has they have stopped supported the statement by many on the picket lines that "they stay closed".

Today about 200 representatives of the 10,000 private sector workers in the West Midlands met in Birmingham to discuss the ISTC instruction.

Some indication of the unexpected headline attitude that has developed in the region came yesterday when 30 members of the Black Country strike committee met to discuss events. The first words set the mood when delivered in the flat Black Country vernacular thus: "We are telling you that the divisional officers and the executive are not."

Mr Dennis Turner, chairman of the meeting, said later: "It was very forceful indeed". Mr Clive Lewis, a divisional organizer of the ISTC, was also present. He said: "From the general mood and unequivocal statements made they seem

intent on carrying on as before. If their attitude and views are still the same tomorrow only one outcome seems possible. There is certainly no question of them going back before the Lords' decision."

The meeting represented about 6,500 private sector workers from 15 plants. Mr Turner said: "It has been an expression of total solidarity with the public sector and the status quo remains as far as they are concerned with 100 per cent remaining on strike."

Tim Jones and Donald Macintyre write from Cardiff: Steel workers in South Wales were divided in their immediate response to the ISTC decision to call off action in the private sector.

About 3,000 workers at Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds in Cardiff, the biggest private firm in South Wales, will return to work today.

But at Dupont, Llanelli, 1,000 workers remained on strike and maintained pickets at entrances to the plant. Local officials Ronald Kershaw and David Nicholson-Lord write from Yorkshire: Picketing continued outside several leading private steel firms in the area yesterday as strike coordinators brought in men from other unions to replace pickets from the ISTC.

One company singled out for special treatment was the Arthur Lee plant in Sheffield.

## Social security benefit paid to 20,000 strikers

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Nearly six out of seven striking steel workers are receiving cash help from social security, according to figures disclosed to *The Times* yesterday.

Although more than 135,000 steel workers are on strike, only 20,000 have received any payment from the special social security centres established in steel towns a week after the strike began on January 2.

The 20,000 strikers had been receiving an average of £22.42 a week for their wives and families up to January 22. But that average is expected to fall soon because some of the unions involved are beginning to pay strike benefit. That is taken

into account in assessing the amount of supplementary benefit payable.

Although only a minority of strikers have received any social security for their dependants, the cost had risen to nearly £790,000 by January 22. In addition, an unspecified number of single strikers have shared £260 in the past two weeks.

Since the total cost is running at an average of about £390,000 a week, social security payments to strikers for their dependants is believed to have passed £1m at the beginning of this week.

In 1979, 50,000 strikers shared £2.5m in benefits for dependants, an average payment of £17.39 a week. Another 251 single strikers shared £6,100 at an average payment of £11.32 a week.

## £50 fines for pickets

Two pickets arrested outside

Sheerness Steel, Kent, were

fined £50 each at a special

court in Sittingbourne yesterday.

Sander Kamper, aged 20, and Ian Girdham, aged 22, both from South Kent, were part of a group of about 50 flying pickets sent to Sheerness Steel from south Rumburds. They

admitted obstructing the police. Both had been held in custody overnight before appearing before the court. Mr Colin Dunster for the prosecution.

The men were arrested separately. Mr N. Winch, the magistrate, said: "You knew the laws and rules and you chose to break them. For that you must pay."

## Teachers' leader defends strikes against cuts

Mr Fred Jarvis, general

secretary of the National Union

of Teachers, yesterday defended

strikes by some members which

have closed nine schools in

Avon.

He also said that striking teachers could not be sued by parents for breach of contract.

Mr Jarvis said in a statement that the three-day strike was aimed at "persuading the authority to change course on a policy of cuts which are harming children's education".

He added: "Effective legal action by parents is not possible in these circumstances, the NUT considers".

An NUT official who was asked to clarify Mr Jarvis's claim said: "People who are not parties to a contract cannot sue for breach of contract".

A union official in London said the action had resulted in a few resignations which had been outweighed by other people joining the union.

The strikes end tonight but there will be more, at different schools, on three days next week and the week after.

Yesterday 8,000 secondary school pupils missed classes for a second day as more than 300 teachers went on strike.

In Coventry, NUT members will strike for half a day on February 11, in protest at staff cuts that they say are planned.

In Scotland a group of teachers in Glasgow and Edinburgh yesterday staged an unofficial one-day strike in protest at the time being taken to settle a pay award.

## London dockland renewal contest 'a big challenge'

By Our Planning Reporter

Two of Britain's largest construction companies—Taylor

Woodrow and George Wimpey, announced yesterday that they had submitted a joint bid for the redevelopment of the Surrey Docks in London.

Their proposals include a million sq ft shopping centre, a 1,250-bed hotel, 200,000 sq ft of offices and 250 homes. They estimate that the scheme will eventually provide some 12,000 jobs.

Proposals for the site, potentially one of the most valuable in Britain, were invited by the Greater London and Southwark councils last November. At that time Taylor Woodrow had, through a subsidiary, put forward a similar plan, which the councils described as premature.

One of the sticking points may be that the two companies appear to want detailed, rather than mere outline, planning permission at an early stage that is a direct result of Taylor Woodrow's difficulties with the redevelopment of St Katharine's Docks.

In November Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the GLC, said he expected to receive a large number of bids, including some from abroad. He promised that there would be an early decision.

## Print workers make 28% pay claim

Leaders of 180,000 print

workers yesterday put a 28 per

cent pay claim to employers in the

general printing industry and

provincial newspapers.

The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat) and the National Graphical Association (NGA) asked for a minimum of £30 a week and a 37-hour working week from April 24.

A third union, the National Society of Operative Printers,

Graphical and Media Personnel (Nampsa), said details of its claim were still being formulated but it supported the claim of the other two unions.

The claim included £17.79 of new money, consolidation of £3.96 and a flat supplement of £5 which would not count in overtime calculations.

Mr Bill Keys, Sogat general secretary, said his union attached considerable importance to the claim for a reduction in the working week.

The employers, the British Printing Industries Federation and the Newspaper Society, said they hoped to give a reply in about two weeks.

"They added that the unions' claims would prove "very expensive indeed" at a time of marked resistance to price increases.

There has been speculation during the past few months that although the Government's support for a fourth channel is undiminished in principle, it is concerned about the loss of revenue its formation would involve.

move which has been considered by the Cabinet has been to publish a Bill containing the fine print of the channel's operation, but to delay the starting date until the economy improves.

The Home Secretary repeated

one of the arguments for such a channel was that it would be the fourth channel this year, the new service would not be off the ground at any time in the future.

Mr Whitelaw made it clear that the Government does not intend to depart from its original plan to make the channel initially dependent on contributions from the ITV operators, thereby diminishing their profits which will in turn reduce their levy which the year provided the Government with £70m.

He said that the new channel will be run by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, but separate programme planning board will be set up by the IBA to control output.

The board will not be under the control of the ITV 1, said, a prospect which had been feared by many of the independent producers who are loyal to the new channel for fear of their future work.

He repeated the argument which he set out in a speech to the Royal Television Society last November in which he ruled out the possibility of a new channel competing with ITV 1 for advertising.

## Woman in home was 'almost unrecognisable'

An ambulance man described

at Maidstone Crown Court,

Kent, yesterday the sight he

found in an old people's sea-

side boarding house when they

were called to take a woman

to hospital.

The woman was said to be so dirty she was almost unrecognisable as a person, it was stated. She was lying on a filthy bed.

Before the court are Dorothy Jones, aged 54, the landlady, and her husband, John Thomas Jones, aged 58, who have both denied the manslaughter of the woman, Mrs Mary Billingham, aged 62.

The prosecution says that their neglect and indifference to her care led to her death on March 31, 1979. The defendants

said that Mrs Billingham would not let them call a doctor and refused food.

Mr Reginald Wright, an ambulance man, said that Mrs Billingham's room at Hatfield Road, Margate, Kent, was filthy. He could hardly recognize a person in the bed. She was covered with a single blanket and coat and was fully dressed. She was so light it hardly needed two men to lift her.

Mr Roy Williams, another ambulance man, said Mrs Billingham's condition was appalling. She died in hospital the next day.

Dr Peter O'Donnell said she was wasted, dehydrated and suffering from malnutrition and hypothermia.

The trial continues today.

## Heart girl gave kidneys, corneas

My Nicholas Timmins

Miss Carol Morris, the school-

girl, aged 16, whose heart was used on Tuesday in Britain's eighth heart transplant, also gave her kidneys and her corneas for transplantation. It was disclosed yesterday.

Mr David Watkin, the consultant surgeon at Leicester Royal Infirmary in charge of Miss Morris's case, said that both kidneys were removed.

One was used in Leicester and the other was sent to Newcastle upon Tyne after doctors had approached the centre at Bristol which matches donated kidneys with recipients.

Mr Watkin said: "The corneas were also taken and I believe that they have been used too."

The condition of the heart recipient, Mr Nigel Olin, aged 35, who is in Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, was "stable" yesterday. The hospital said: "His new heart is working satisfactorily."

Miss Morris, who was carrying a kidney donor card, died after her moped was in collision with a lorry near her home at Houghton on the Hill, Leicester, on Friday night. Mr Watkins said that by Sunday it became clear that her breathing, circulation and heartbeat were being maintained by a ventilator, her brain had died.

Standard clinical tests to establish brain death were performed and when there was no response after a 12-hour interval, arrangements for the transplant were made.

Mr Watkins said that Miss Morris's father had suggested that her heart should be used when doctors discussed with him the possibility of kidney transplant.

"He said that as she did not survive the accident she would like some good to come of it," Surgeons from Papworth Hospital flew to Leicester from the New South Wales Air Force base at Alconbury, Cambridge-shire, the heart and other

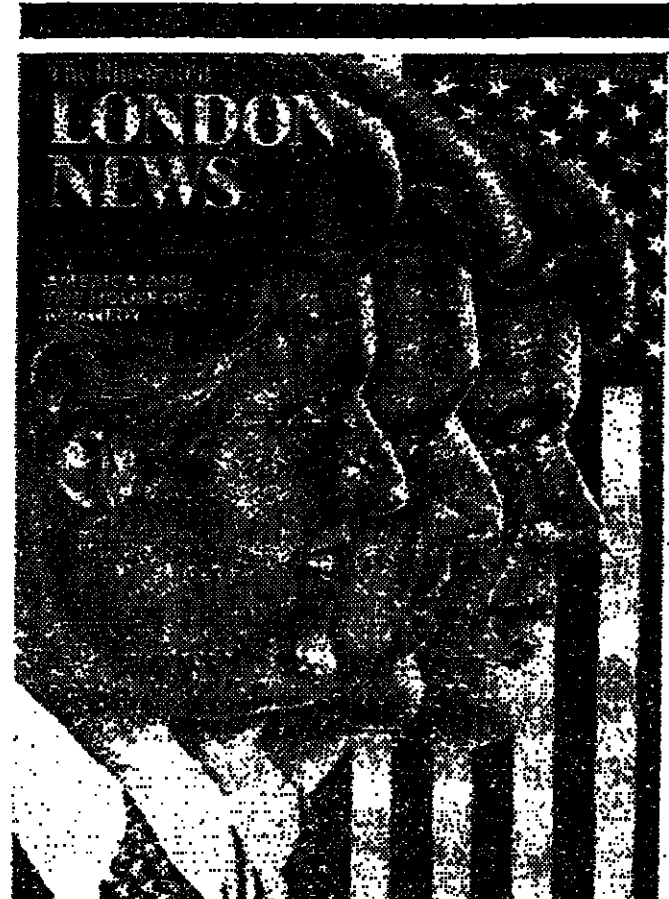
organs were removed and cooled, and the five-hour transplant operation was completed just before 6 am on Tuesday morning after the team flew back to Papworth.

Mr Watkins said that the fact that Miss Morris had carried a donor card had made it easier to raise the question of transplant.

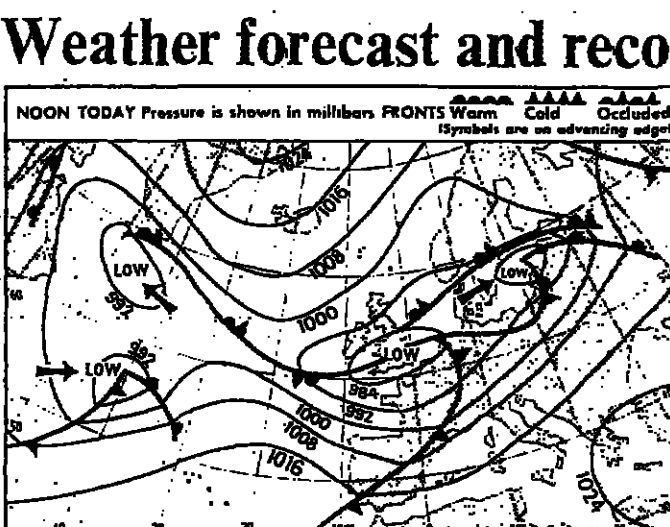
The hospital praised the "vision" of Carol and her parents. "These successes depend upon the vision of donors such as Carol Morris and her parents for whose inspiration and support we are deeply grateful."

About 24 million kidney donor cards have been distributed since 1972 by the Department of Health, which has spent an estimated £200,000 on promoting them. Transplant surgeons say, however, that relatively few donors carry the cards.

A further campaign to encourage use of the cards is planned for this summer.



The extraordinary love-hate relationship between AMERICA AND THE HOUSE OF KENNEDY  
February issue of *The Illustrated London News*  
on sale now, 65p



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS: Warm (solid line), Cold (dashed line), Occluded (dotted line). Symbols are an advancing edge.

Today  
Sun rises: 7.42 am, sets: 4.47 pm  
Moon sets: 4.47 pm, rises: 7.7 am

Full moon: Tomorrow  
Lighting up: 5.17 pm to 7.10 am  
High Water: London Bridge 1.17 am, 4.1 pm, 6.30 pm, 9.1 pm  
Low Water: 6.48 am, 12.6 pm, 12.7 pm, 6.4 pm, 6.2 pm, 11.02 pm, 6.4 pm, 6.2 pm, 10.55 am, 8.5 pm, 11.15 pm, 8.8 pm  
1 Foot = 0.3048 m = 3.2808 ft

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:  
An active depression will move E across E. England.  
London, SE England, central S England, SW England, SW



## HOME NEWS

## London explains what it would like to do with its rubbish

By Penny Symon

The Greater London Council said yesterday that it would like to be rid of its responsibility for the disposal of London's household rubbish, which it finds an increasingly expensive burden.

Every day more than 11,000 tons of rubbish is collected in the capital and the council has to get rid of it. If it were to be dumped in Trafalgar Square all that would be visible of Lord Nelson on his 145-foot column after a week would be his hat.

If the three million tons of household rubbish produced in London each year were put in the 342 acres of Hyde Park it would cover it to a depth of 30 feet.

Most of the six million tons of industrial and commercial waste produced in London each year is handled by the private disposal industry and the GLC is trying to get it to help with the household rubbish.

The council called a meeting in London yesterday to explain why it would prefer to supply materials to profitable enterprises rather than to collectors and disposers of unwanted waste.

Behind the humour of the conference's title—Talking Rubbish—there was a crisis. It is estimated that by 1990 the amount of household rubbish collected each year will increase to four million tons and to more than five million by the end of the century.

Almost all of the refuse is disposed of in holes in the ground outside the greater London area and the GLC is having to search farther and farther afield for new sites.

The costs of solid waste disposal have risen substantially over the past few years and will continue to do so. Mr. Laurence Peterken, GLC con-

troller of operational services, said:

"The cost in 1974-75 was £13.5m, in 1978-79 it was about £24m, but by 1982-83 the figure could well have risen to £35m."

Refuse disposal costs the average London household about 18p a week, but the GLC is wondering how long it can continue to provide a service that is economically efficient and environmentally safe.

"We are looking at the best ways to turn rubbish into energy, and reclaim valuable raw materials for further use," Mr. Peterken said. "All that we have to do now is make it economically viable—and there's the rub."

If it were possible to use all London's waste to generate electricity it would provide all the electricity that London Transport uses. It is the GLC's view that energy should be recovered from waste wherever technically feasible and cost-effective.

The council was looking at the use of solid waste as a supplementary fuel for existing industrial furnaces and the production of waste-derived fuel in pellet form.

"We are also trying to involve the private sector more in providing and running transfer stations," Mr. Peterken said. "Would private companies be interested, for instance, in operating energy or resource recovery plants to handle some of our waste, with associated recovery of ferrous metals?"

Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, told the conference that he hoped authorities in the rest of the country would note the example set by London and consider the scope for increasing the involvement of the private sector in the whole range of local authority services.

## French nuclear accident upsets Channel Islands

From Our Correspondent

St Peter Port

The Channel Islands have asked the French authorities to tell them of any accident at the Cap de la Hague nuclear reprocessing plant, however small and even if it is not considered to affect the islands.

The request came after a leak of radioactive waste from a damaged pipe at Moulins Cret, on the Normandy coast.

In reply to a question in Guernsey's parliament yesterday Deputy Colin McCathie, president of the civil defence committee, said that the island authorities had learnt of the leak only through press reports and had asked that they should be informed directly of all incidents.

Mr. McCathie added that a meeting of the Channel Islands joint advisory council on common environmental problems, a

body set up primarily because of French nuclear developments on the Cotentin Peninsula, was to be held soon to study the French safety plans as they applied to the islands.

Concern has been growing in the Channel Islands about the risk of nuclear accidents since the French announced plans to increase the capacity of the Cap de la Hague reprocessing plant and to build a large nuclear power station at Flamanville, only 30 miles from Guernsey. Anti-nuclear groups are using car stickers saying "Nuclear neighbours, non!" and "You are in a French nuclear zone."

Mr. McCathie told Guernsey MPs that if an incident at the Cap de la Hague plant was likely to affect the islands, Jersey's defence committee and Guernsey's civil defence committee would be notified immediately.

## Driving ban on TV actress

Barbara Knox, the actress who plays Rita Fairclough in the television series *Coronation Street*, was banned from driving for two months by magistrates at Whitminster, Gloucestershire, yesterday for her second speeding offence within a few weeks.

Mrs. Knox, aged 46, of St. Clare's Road, Whitminster, Gloucestershire, was also fined £55. She was said to have travelled at 101 mph on the M5 in Gloucestershire.

## Jail death caused by pneumonia

The family of George Wilkinson, aged 33, of Ferryhill, co Durham, who died in Walton jail, Liverpool, has been told that a pathologist who carried out a post-mortem at their request found that he died of bronchial pneumonia.

The pathologist, who was asked for a second examination because they said that Mr. Wilkinson had appeared "drugged", he was serving 10 years

## WEST EUROPE

## Judge gives ultimatum to Madrid editor

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Jan 30

The editor of the Madrid newspaper which last Friday reported an alleged military plot to overthrow the Government, was today summoned before a military judge and ordered to reveal within 48 hours the sources and the author of the front-page report.

It is the second time that Señor Miguel Angel Aguilar, aged 36, of the Madrid evening *Diario 16*, has appeared before military authorities since the publication of the story which was rapidly and vigorously denied by the Government.

Señor Aguilar faces charges of disrespect to the armed forces. He could be sent to prison for three years.

The story carried a headline saying: "An attempted military coup has been thwarted in Madrid." A sub-headline said: "For this reason the commander of the armed division, General Torroja Rojas, was dismissed yesterday."

Despite official denials, there were strong indications that there were at least serious conversations about the need for possible military intervention among some officers, even if the matter did not come to a head in the form of a definite plot.

The general mentioned in the story took up his post this week as military governor of the north-western province of La Coruña.

The transfer to that post from his former job as commander of the 1st Brigade of the 1st armoured division, stationed on the outskirts of Madrid, was alleged by the newspaper to be the result of discovery of the alleged scheme to oust Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, and replace him with a prominent general.

The Defence Ministry maintained, however, that the transfer was a routine one.

Colonel shot: An army lieutenant-colonel was wounded yesterday in an attack at Munguia in the Basque country's Vizcaya Province.

## Nuremberg Nazi group banned and homes raided

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Jan 30

West Germany's biggest Nazi group, a paramilitary organization called the Wehrsportgruppe (military sports group) Hoffmann was banned by Herr Gerhart Baum, the Minister of the Interior, today. Simultaneously, the police raided and searched Nuremberg headquarters and members' homes in central and southern Germany.

The 100-strong group, inspired by Hitler and the Nazi Third Reich, aimed at the violent overthrow of democracy, and the creation of a "total state", Herr Baum said.

Its purpose was not physical training, as it was claimed, but the establishment of fighting units to carry out its political aims, he added. The group had recently repeatedly attacked political adversaries.

The Wehrsportgruppe Hoffmann, wearing steel helmets and bandoliers, and organized on a military command structure, would periodically meet for paramilitary exercises in a ruined castle near Nuremberg. Consisting mostly of youths, it was led by Herr Karl Heinz Hoffmann, aged 42, a former mercenary and sign painter.

## Honecker brake on talks with Herr Schmidt

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Jan 30

Plans for Herr Helmut Schmidt to meet Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, in the next couple of months have been put off.

Herr Armin Grünewald, deputy government spokesman, said Herr Honecker had asked that the date should not be fixed. The meeting would, however, take place some time later this year.

Both sides were anxious that it should occur under the "most favourable conditions". The warm tone of the announcement indicated that both governments are keen to develop better relations but feel that the atmosphere at present is not suitable. There is also speculation here that Herr Honecker's room for action may be severely limited by Moscow.

## Germans fear Big Brother as police investigate bills

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, Jan 30

The uncomfortable feeling among West Germans that Big Brother is able to peer more and more into their private lives has hardly been dispelled by news that many thousands of electricity bills have been passed on to police terrorist hunters.

The Federal Criminal Office (BKA) assured them that acquiring such information was perfectly legal, and moreover had led to the arrest of six fast-moving terrorists and the discovery of several terrorist hideouts.

It emerged today that thousands of electricity bills in Hamburg, Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Munich and Berlin had been handed to criminal offices for screening.

## EEC scheme for extra spending in Britain to close £1,000m gap

From Michael Horneby

Brussels, Jan 30

A proposal for a special credit line in the EEC budget through which to channel extra Community spending in Britain was approved here tonight by the European Commission. The aim would be to help close the £1,000m gap between Britain's payments to and receipts from the budget.

The Commission was instructed to prepare such proposals by heads of government at their last summit meeting in Dublin. The main criterion laid down then was that any extra EEC spending in Britain should "contribute to greater economic convergence".

This is EEC jargon for saying that such expenditure should help to reduce the disparities in wealth between countries and regions within the Community. It also serves to identify, if somewhat spuriously, a Community interest in measures tailored essentially to help only one country.

The Commission has not proposed specific projects so much as a type of spending that could be justified under the convergence heading. These are understood to include roadbuilding, urban and industrial renewal, the coal industry and regional development (Northern Ireland is specifically mentioned).

No figure is put on the amount of spending that might be generated by these means. The Commission carefully leaves this to heads of Government who are pledged to pursue the budget dispute at their next summit meeting in Brussels, which now looks most unlikely to take place in February as had originally been hoped. The meeting may not take place before the end of March.

The Commission gives no backing to the idea of a "self-correcting mechanism" peddled by Sir Ian Gilmour, the Lord Privy Seal, during his recent tour of EEC capitals. This would involve automatic payments to Britain each year to

bring its receipts per head from the Community budget up to a stipulated percentage of the EEC average.

A system for giving Britain a refund of about £350m on its gross contribution to the budget was informally offered to Mrs Thatcher in Dublin but rejected by her as inadequate. The commission presumes, though this cannot be certain, that this offer is still available. Other member-states have made it quite clear, however, that a second refund mechanism on the receipts side is out of the question.

The basic problem which the Commission has tried to circumvent in its proposal is that existing funds that might be tapped to help Britain, such as the social and regional funds, are too small to provide relief on the scale required and cannot easily be used to benefit only one country. The Commission is understood to leave open to review the question of the duration of any special arrangements for Britain.

Whatever the fate of the Commission's proposal at the hands of heads of government, it already appears certain that Mrs Thatcher will have to be content with substantially less than the £1,000m she was demanding previously if she wants to avoid creating a major crisis in the Community.

Summit plans: Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the EEC Commission, will discuss plans for the next EEC summit with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, in Bonn tomorrow.

A spokesman for Mr Jenkins said in Brussels that they will review moves to solve the problem of Britain's demand for a big cut in its contribution to the Community budget this year. EEC officials say the summit is now expected to be held on March 31 and April 1, but nothing is fixed firmly yet.

The choice of date is up to Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, who is President of the European Council for the first half of 1980.—Reuter.



The Pope watching a contortionist who went to his weekly audience yesterday with other performers working for the Togni Circus.

## Eurocommunism 'alive in Spain'

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 30

Señor Santiago Carrillo, leader of the Spanish Communist Party, said today that Eurocommunism was far from dead despite French Communist support for the Russian intervention in Afghanistan.

Answering questions at a foreign correspondents' lunch here, he said: "Euro Communism is alive and not just by chance. It's alive because there are parties like the Italian Communist Party and the Spanish Communist Party and some others which continue to defend the Eurocommunist line and which consider that in the present conditions of serious—very serious—international tension, such a policy is more necessary than ever."

The Soviet action in Afghanistan was "unjustifiable" and he could not understand it. Yet he lamented that a wave of international criticism, such as that which had arisen over

the Afghanistan affair, had not been provoked by previous actions of "American imperialism".

Using the word "invasion" to describe the Soviet move, he repeated that his party "has condemned it as an attack on the independence of a country, which seriously aggravates world tension. We are in favour of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan."

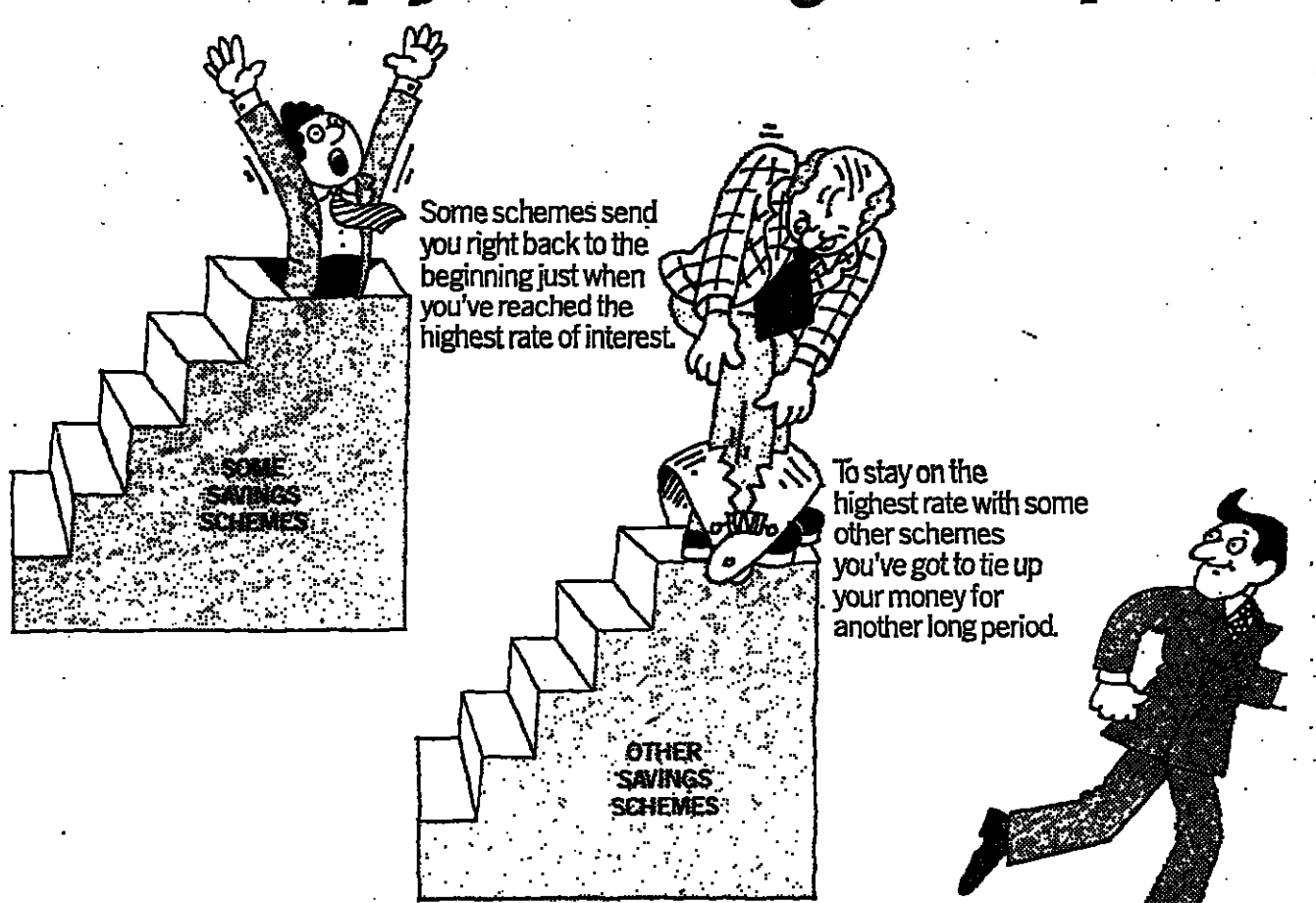
However, he condemned President Carter for his policy of boycotting the Olympic Games in Moscow. "It seems to me that boycotting the Olympics is an imbecile idea, which will only strengthen the idea among Soviet citizens that the USSR is being blockaded, as it has been in other periods. This will ferment a nationalistic tendency which will be of no help at all in solving world problems."

"I think the Spanish Government would be mistaken to follow the course set by Carter; that of boycotting the Olympic Games in Moscow," he said. "I think the Olympics are not in fact above politics, nothing is above politics these days, but nevertheless there should be some meeting place where the events of the moment are not affected by international policy."

The way to ease the tension, he suggested, was via negotiations; but he confessed that he did not know what *quid pro quo* the West might offer to encourage the Soviet Union to pull out its troops.

"The tragic thing is," he remarked, "that once the Soviet Union has actually entered Afghanistan it's very difficult for it to pull back. When the United States went into Vietnam it was likewise difficult for the United States to pull out. When a great power takes a step of this nature, the hardest thing is to go back."

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3rd year	11.50%	11.50%	11.50%	12.00%	12.50%
4th year	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	12.00%	12.50%
5th year	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	12.50%

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## OVERSEAS

# President Carter's envoy plans new initiative to bridge Israeli-Egyptian gap on autonomy

From Christopher Walker  
Tel Aviv, Jan 30

A concerted American diplomatic initiative to bridge the wide gap between Israeli and Egyptian proposals for Palestinian autonomy is expected when the most crucial round of ministerial talks yet held on the subject begins tomorrow.

With less than four months left before the deadline for reaching agreement set at Camp David, President Carter's special Middle East envoy, Mr Sol Linowitz, is understood to be planning to put forward new proposals designed to break the deadlock.

Details of the American plans are being kept secret before they are formally presented to the two sides at the two-day session of talks in a heavily guarded seaside hotel north of Tel Aviv. But it was reliably learnt tonight that they do not amount to a separate American blueprint for a form of autonomy for the just over a million Palestinian Arabs living in the occupied territories.

Putting a brave face on the formidable negotiating task facing him, an optimistic-sounding Mr Linowitz disclosed today that he had already discussed the new suggestions with both President Sadat and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister. "I think they offer some promising approaches to some of the key negotiations", he explained guardedly.

Mr Linowitz's central problem will be to find common ground for negotiation between the published Israeli autonomy model which allows only administrative powers to the Palestinians and the Egyptian alternative which demands for them the full legislative and

judicial role now exercised by the Israeli military government.

There was speculation in Israeli political circles that soft of the new American proposals are linked to the unresolved problem of Jerusalem. The Israelis have hitherto insisted that it must remain the "undivided" capital of Israel, while Egypt wants Israeli occupation of east Jerusalem ended and the projected autonomy body of between 100 and 200 members to have its headquarters there.

Mr Linowitz's indefatigable optimism is not shared by diplomatic observers in the Middle East or by many of those who are travelling on his aircraft in a shuttle service which began in Egypt and will also include visits to Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

The full extent of the gap dividing the official Israeli and Egyptian positions was illustrated when the two working groups met in Tel Aviv this week in preparation for the plenary session. Neither side has so far given any indication of being prepared to compromise on the key points.

Mr Linowitz was today snubbed by a number of prominent Palestinian Arabs from the occupied West Bank who turned down invitations to meet him.

Among those who refused to accept the offer was Mr Elias Fakhri, the mayor of Bethlehem, who is generally regarded as one of the most moderate of the 25 elected Arab mayors.

He told me: "I wanted to show my deep disappointment with the ineffectiveness of American policy on the Palestinian issue. They have done nothing about ending Jewish settlement on our land or

about making Israel change its so-called autonomy plan which has been rejected by everyone on the West Bank."

Early tonight, Mr Linowitz held his first official meeting with a leading Arab figure from the occupied territories when he met Mr Rashid al-Shawa, the appointed mayor of Gaza Strip. The talks were part of a new attempt by the Americans to involve at least some local Palestinians in the autonomy negotiations.

Before the meeting, Mr al-Shawa told reporters that he would be firmly rejecting the recent suggestion made by President Sadat that autonomy should be introduced first in Gaza. "We insist on linking Gaza with the West Bank", he explained. "Anything that is to happen here must happen simultaneously in the West Bank."

Although Mr al-Shawa has recently returned from a tour of Arab countries which included talks with Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, he strongly denied that he was carrying any message on the PLO's behalf.

A rich landowner and merchant, Mr al-Shawa is one of the most conservative figures among the Arab notables in the occupied territories.

Mr al-Shawa claimed that there was no question of him negotiating with Mr Linowitz, of the Palestinian position that Israel must withdraw from the occupied territories, stop settlement activity and recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination and a sovereign state. He would also insist that Jerusalem should be recognized as an Arab city in every respect.

## Mugabe party 'will win most seats in poll'

From Nicholas Ashford  
Salisbury, Jan 30

The massive rally that greeted Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zanu (PF) leader, when he returned from Mozambique last weekend, has sent political pundits reaching for their slide rules to recalculate the odds on the likelihood of his becoming the first Prime Minister of an independent Zimbabwe.

Their calculations are not likely to produce much comfort for Mr Mugabe's main rivals. Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (formerly Zapu), and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, head of the United African National Council (UANC),

in the absence of psephologists or even a reliable voter's roll, any assessment of political trends can only be a rough estimate. It is particularly hard to determine which way the people in the tribal lands, comprising the majority of the electorate, will vote.

Nevertheless, one black commentator whose views are respected has calculated that if an election were held tomorrow Mr Mugabe would win 38 of the 50 black seats being contested. According to his calculation, Mr Nkomo would gain 21 seats, Bishop Muzorewa 14, the Rev Ndabingi Sibhole's Zanu Party five and Mr James Chikerema's Zimbabwe Democratic Party (ZDP) two.

People expect the four other parties contesting the election to win any seats. Other observers believe Mr Mugabe's support may not be so massive and that the bishop, by Bishop Muzorewa, is the more likely to win. Nevertheless, even British officials at Government House seem to have little doubt at this stage that the Zanu (PF) will emerge as the largest single party in the new parliament. It is a prospect which, despite the calculated moderation displayed by Mr Mugabe since his return, is causing concern both in Government House and among black and white Rhodesians who are opposed to his style of society.

What is difficult to assess is to what extent Mr Mugabe is benefiting from the fact that many black Rhodesians are simply curious to see a man about whom they have heard so much during the past few years of war but who is a relative stranger to them. Certainly not all of the 200,000 or more people who turned out to greet him last Sunday will actually vote for him.

Nevertheless, his claim to be the spokesman for the guerrilla war against the Salisbury Administration, thus forcing it to accept the principle of majority rule, is a persuasive one. So is the party's argument that as the Zanu (PF) was largely responsible for the war it is the only party capable of ensuring peace. As in last April's election, peace is the overriding issue for most voters.

There also seems little doubt that coercion is an important factor in supporting the Zanu (PF) in rural areas.



Pots and pans for sale in the equivalent of an ironmonger's shop in a Salisbury shanty

Despite the ceasefire, large numbers of guerrillas who have failed to gather in assembly areas have been going around villages warning people to vote for Zanu (PF) or else. British sources have described the situation in the eastern Manicaland Province, where the guerrillas are still particularly active, as being "mayhem".

During a five-day electoral campaign, Mr Mugabe has been little short of a disaster. He has failed to capitalize on his main asset—his claim to be a man of unity—and instead has been angrily lashing out at one political opponent after another.

The impression created is of a man who knows he is losing support and who does not know how to reverse the tide. Mr Nkomo, on the other hand, experienced politician that he is, has carefully avoided attacking anyone at all. Since his return three weeks ago he

has been preaching unity and reconciliation. This message seems to be winning him support well beyond his Manicaland base and there are growing signs that his party could win a number of seats in at least three provinces where Shonas predominate.

Mr Nkomo is now at the centre of moves to establish a common black front, the overall purpose of which would be to stop Mr Mugabe coming to power. A measure of common ground has already been established between Mr Nkomo and Mr Chikerema, but so far talks between senior Patriotic Front and UANC representatives have made little progress. The main problem is that Mr Nkomo and Bishop Muzorewa have a strong dislike for each other and both want to be the next Prime Minister.

The unity moves are being discreetly encouraged by the British and by other external forces. One British source said with confidence: "The far man will be Prime Minister, you can bet on that." However, there are a number of obstacles to be overcome before an alliance can be established. One is, the dan-

ger that even if Bishop Muzorewa can be persuaded to link up with Mr Nkomo other members of his party may not. Some might leave the UANC to join Mr Mugabe. On the present electoral arithmetic this would be almost guaranteed to put the Zanu (PF) in power.

Another is the flirtation that is currently taking place between the white Rhodesian Front and the UANC. A group of Rhodesian Front candidates, believed to number 12 out of the 20 contesting the white poll, are understood to favour a merger with the UANC into one biracial party. If this happened and if the anti-UANC trend could be reversed, this new joint party would probably be larger than the Zanu (PF) and would then need only the support of the smaller black parties to enable it to form a government.

This would mean that both Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe would be excluded from power. "That would be absolute disaster," remarked a British official. "The elections will never be accepted as free and fair unless one of the former Patriotic Front leaders is in power."

## Man named in Cross kidnapping

From Anne Penketh  
Montreal, Jan 30

Mr X, the sixth man involved in the kidnapping of Mr James Cross, the British Trade Commissioner, by Quebec extremists in 1970 has been named at a public hearing investigating illegal police activities in Quebec.

He is Mr Nigel Hamer, an Englishman now living in Montreal, who was in charge of maintaining the contact between Mr Cross's kidnappers and the outside world. Mrs Cross and her maid had confirmed at the time of the kidnapping that one of the kidnappers had an English accent.

According to Miss Carole Desautel, a witness to the investigation and an informer for the Montreal police, who had infiltrated the Front de Liberation du Quebec (FLQ), she (Miss Desautel) had told police of Mr Hamer's identity by the time Mr Cross was released on December 3, 1970. By December 5 she had also informed them of Mr Hamer's address. Mr Hamer has never been arrested.

"I often asked why they never arrested Hamer, but I never got an answer," she said. Mr Hamer is suspected of being part of the police network.

The Keable inquiry was set up by the Parti Quebecois after it came to power in 1976 to investigate a break-in at a Left-wing Montreal news agency in 1972.

## Transkei asked to release reporter held without trial

From Eric Marsden  
Johannesburg, Jan 30

A demand for the immediate release of a reporter who has been detained without trial in Transkei for more than two weeks was made in the Supreme Court at Umtata today.

The reporter, Mr Peter Honey, was arrested after refusing to divulge the source of a news report when ordered to do so by Brigadier Martin Ngcaba, the Transkei Police Commissioner.

Mr A. Buys, his advocate, told the court that it was in the interest of the people of Transkei and of the state's security that allegations of corruption on the part of senior officers of the state should be exposed.

He applied for Mr Honey's release on behalf of the reporter's wife, Mrs Carmen Honey, and the South Africa Argus Printing and Publishing Company, which Mr Honey represents in Transkei.

Mr Buys said the article by Mr Honey referred to Mr G. E. Muller, Transkei Attorney General, and contained an allegation that Brigadier Ngcaba wanted political prisoners prosecuted even when there was insufficient evidence against them. The article had suggested that Mr Muller refused to prosecute on insufficient evidence in certain cases.

Brigadier Ngcaba and Mr Justice G. A. Munnik, the Transkei Chief Justice, had both confirmed that most of the contents of the article were

true. Mr Honey had refused to disclose the sources of his information, but his lawyers said the defendants to justify the detention.

Mr Buys said it seemed that security police in Transkei detained people under the Public Security Act for the purpose of investigating suspected crimes, thus eroding the provisions of criminal law and procedure.

In earlier evidence, Brigadier Ngcaba was alleged to have threatened to "squeeze" Mr Honey until he gave the name of his informant. He would said when he refused "I will make you dance". In an affidavit the Brigadier denied using these phrases.

No "forced integration": The white Legislative Assembly in Windhoek is refusing to carry out fully resolution by the multiracial Namibian National Assembly that all public and tourist amenities in the territory should be open to all races.

Mr Adolf Brinkman, Executive Committee Member in Namibia, said in Windhoek today that it could not associate itself with "forced integration".

Recalling that last year the Namibian National Assembly "forced owners of amenities to one of their doors to all," Mr Brinkman said: "The notion deviates from the whole-some principles of the Turnhalle constitutional conference and the executive committee is convinced it is a step backwards."

## 98 are accused of Turkish political killings

From Our Correspondent  
Ankara, Jan 30

The Istanbul martial law command today announced that 98 alleged members of the underground Turkish Communist Party-Marxist-Leninist had been arrested and accused of 18 political murders.

They were also believed to be responsible for at least six robberies and a number of bomb attacks and had wounded 11 people.

Security troops found 21 pistols, one shotgun, two bombs, a stick of dynamite, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and "notes pertaining to the group's activities" in raids on the homes of the alleged members of the party, a Maoist group.

## MacArthur took gift of \$500,000 from Philippines

From Richard Eder  
New York, Jan 30

General Douglas MacArthur received a gift of \$500,000 on the orders of President Manuel Quezon of the Philippines, shortly before both men were evacuated from Corregidor in the face of the Japanese offensive in 1942, according to documents found by an American scholar.

Records of the payment, made in apparent contravention of American military regulations, have been found in the National Archives by an American researcher, Professor Carol Pettillo of Boston College.

According to the documents, smaller payments amounting to \$140,000 were made by the Philippines Government, the Philippine Republic, to MacArthur and his family at the time of his evacuation.

These gifts, which raise questions about the relationship of MacArthur and President Quezon, the War Department complied with MacArthur's request that the Chase Bank, the depository for Philippine Government funds, be instructed to pay the money into his account and those of his three aides.

Miss Pettillo came upon the documents in the course of research for a doctoral dissertation. She published an article based upon them in last February's issue of the *Pacific Historical Review*, a leading scholarly publication.

The document used by Miss Pettillo was found in the papers of the late General Richard Sutherland. MacArthur's chief of staff. It is an executive order, signed by President Quezon, instructing the Government to make the payments to MacArthur and his family.

## Demand growing for defence lawyers in China

From Our Correspondent  
Peking, Jan 30

The introduction of a new criminal code this month has created a growing demand for court lawyers, the New China news agency said today.

The agency said that the Peking Lawyers' Association hoped to have 100 trained lawyers ready by next July to meet the demand and would approve a list of part-time lawyers next month.

The code, introduced on January 1, gives defendants the right to legal representation for the first time since the Cultural Revolution in the mid-1950s.

Lawyers who had practised in Peking before the Cultural Revolution were now gradually returning to their old profession, the agency said. —Reuters.

## Flame from Olympia wings its way to winter games

From Mario Modiano  
Athens, Jan 30

The Olympic flame, safely inserted in a miner's lamp, was travelling tonight to Lake Placid, New York, for the XIII Winter Olympic Games, escorted by a large United States delegation on board an American presidential aircraft.

The flame was ignited in the ancient sanctuary of Olympia in south Greece, with the help of a parabolic mirror focusing the sun's rays on a dried olive branch.

A young actress dressed as a high priestess of the Temple of Hera, surrounded by men, lit a torch from the flame and handed it to the first runner.

The flame was later flown to Athens and runners relayed it to the Athens stadium where it was ceremonially surrendered to the delegation from Lake Placid. The ceremony was held in the same all-marble stadium built for the first contemporary Olympic Games in 1896.

Today's ceremonies took place amid the controversy over the participation of the Soviet Olympic Games and growing support for the Greek Prime Minister's proposal that the Games should be given a permanent home in Greece.

Greece is not boycotting the summer games in Moscow and its leaders have reaffirmed their adherence to the principle that politics should be kept out of sport.

The Greek Olympic Committee announced that it intended to reiterate the Prime Minister's proposal at the meeting of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) due in Lake Placid on February 1.

Officials asserted that Greece could be ready to host the summer games in 1984.

Japanese delay: While the Japanese Government is inclined to follow the American position on the Moscow Olympics, the Japan Olympic Committee still wants to hold up the decision pending the IOC meeting.

The Government was reported as saying that it would join the United States position which is that it would withdraw from, postpone or cancel the Moscow games because of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

National Olympic Committee sources, however, declared that the final decision on Japan's participation would be made "until after a decision is made at the IOC. Indicating a strong aversion to 'political intervention' into the 'realm of sports'."

## Jumbo jet blown off runway into snowdrift

From Our Correspondent  
Anchorage, Alaska, Jan 30

A British Airways jumbo jet was blown off the runway into a snowdrift after landing at Anchorage in Alaska on Tuesday night. None of the 57 people on board were injured.

The Boeing 747 was taxiing on to the runway during a refuelling stop when it was buffeted by a 40-knot gust of wind. The runway was closed for five hours while workmen dug out the aircraft.

The aircraft was being checked by aviation officials before being allowed to take off for London. It was not thought to have been damaged.

Prison fire spreads  
Bangkok, Jan 30—A fire which broke out in the kitchen of a prison in Bangkok spread to the surrounding slum area, destroyed about 300 houses and shops and left more than 1,000 people homeless.

Mr Ingraham writes: "He is a decent man, although entirely unqualified for the job he holds." Later, he writes: "He is not an arrogant or an abusive man and he has not created significant difficulties with the host country. Senior officials simply don't take him seriously."

One reason he accepted the job, rather than a post in Washington, was that he and his wife, a recently widowed entertainer, Singaporean, local American and foreigner, were never invited to the residence, although he agreed, after prodding by Mr Ingraham, to go to the many social functions in other embassies.

He was wont to cause some surprise, however, by his tendency to leave early, just before the Deputy Prime Minister made a speech, for instance, or in the middle of a ceremony. He was once persuaded to show a group of military dignitaries around an American warship visiting Singapore, got distracted half way through the tour and handed the task over to his houseboy.

## Further push to sea by Russians unlikely

By Charles Douglas-Horne

Defence experts in London have studied the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and reached a preliminary conclusion that it would have taken four or five months to plan, that the Russians intend to remain at their present strength in Afghanistan indefinitely, but that they have no capacity for a further push to the sea.

The five or six Soviet divisions now in Afghanistan do not provide an adequate force to dominate the mountains. They can only control the towns and keep the main roads open.

Since they are mainly low category reserve divisions from the Soviet Turkmen military district they will have to be rotated after three months with other reserve divisions in their home area. The call-up of reserves is not likely to trouble the Soviet economy too much during the winter months.

The defence experts conclude that contingency planning for the operation would have had to start at least by August—even before the overthrow of Tarakki by Amin. The likely brief for Soviet military commanders would have been to prepare a military framework for the post-Amin social reconstruction of Afghanistan to be carried out. This framework would require holding only towns, roads and airfields, and could put up with a reasonable degree of opposition from dissident tribesmen.

The main question in planning such an operation, and in now sustaining it, concerned the reliability of the Afghan Army. The speed and scale of the advance in the last month suggests that the Soviet military command could not afford to risk leaving too much to the Afghan Army, in case it split between loyalists and disloyalists.

The aidrop was augmented by the spearhead elements of each division being flown in from Samarkand to sustain the momentum of the first drop. Most of the five or six divisions now on the ground were in position within a week.

The defence experts do not believe that this force would provide Russia with enough capacity to pacify the country or to push on to the sea. A clue to the likely permanent strength of Russian forces to be maintained in Afghanistan will come when reservist units start to rotate and when some picture emerges about the level of permanent logistic support which the Russians are providing. At present they can rely on Afghan equipment and spares as both armies use the same weapons.

Any plan to extend pacification beyond towns and roads, or to use the Afghan footsoldiers for further operations—perhaps against dissident tribesmen operating from Pakistan, or in support of Baluchi dissidents—would require a force of about double the size, the London assessment concludes.

However, the Soviet leadership has been met by securing the country's main populated areas and making certain that there was no further deterioration in the political situation there.

The invasion was caused by a fear of losing control while there was about 5,000 Soviet advisers and combat troops in the country.

## Tehran escape report criticized

From John Best  
Ottawa, Jan 30

A sharp controversy has arisen over whether the Montreal newspaper *La Presse* was justified yesterday in breaking the story of how Canadian smuggled six Americans out of Tehran. Four diplomats and two wives were flown out by scheduled airline flight at the weekend after taking refuge in the Canadian Embassy.

The White House in Washington was angered by the newspaper's action, but the publication might endanger the American hostages still held captive at the American Embassy in Tehran. Mr Jody Powell, presidential press secretary, said: "It was obviously our desire that this story not be out."

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian Prime Minister, and Miss Flora MacDonald, his External Affairs Minister, have both said they would have preferred the story not to be published until after the hostages were released.

There are still about 50 Canadians in Iran, even after the closure of the Canadian Embassy on Monday. Miss MacDonald has said she does not think that they will be subject to a fair number of Americans left in the country, in addition to the hostages.

Mr Jean Pelletier, Washington Correspondent for *La Presse*, who broke the story yesterday, said he had been sitting on it since December 10, but had not published it earlier at the request of Canadian and American officials. However, with six weeks now safe in the West and other newspapers "noising around", he thought it would be only a matter of time before someone else beat him to it.

Mr Pelletier is the son of Mr Gerald Pelletier, Canadian Ambassador to Tehran. He had insisted that his world scoop had nothing to do with his father.

In today's edition of *La Presse*, Mr Roger Lemelin, publisher and editor, said the newspaper was proud of having printed the story. "We knew that to divulge prematurely this heavy secret for some need to create a sensation would put

human lives in danger. That is no longer the case."

"We know our moral duties and do our best to meet them," he added.

In Tehran today, Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, accused Canada's Conservative Government of staging the escape to lift tortures in the current election campaign. Miss MacDonald immediately denied the allegation, saying the affair started long before the election was called and could have been ended at any time.

It was disclosed earlier that the Canadian Ambassador in Tehran, Mr Kenneth Taylor, had been given advance authority by the Canadian Government to make his own decision on the point of escape.

Miss MacDonald refused to comment on reports that the United States Central Intelligence Agency was involved in preparing false visas for the Americans, who carried ordinary Canadian citizens passports authorized by a secret order-in-council passed by the Cabinet some weeks ago.

The main concern of the Administration here is that any deal worked out with the Iranians should stick. After the unfulfilled promises made by the authorities in Tehran that the American Embassy would be protected even if the Shah fled the United States for medical treatment, the Administration is understandably concerned about any future guarantees from that quarter.

In spite of clear evidence that Washington is no longer pressing ahead with unilateral economic sanctions against Iran with any sense of urgency, the State Department is insisting that they will be introduced soon. A State Department spokesman said that the Administration was "clearly" going ahead with the sanctions, although he has been unable to explain why they have not already been introduced.

## US tries to keep rescue details secret

Continued from page 1

Before the story was broken in the French Canadian press, several American news organizations knew about the existence of a group of diplomats in hiding in Tehran but were prevailed upon by the authorities here not to release the information. It is not clear, however, how complete that information was.

Beyond the an outline of the escape and in spite of the mass of words written about it, precious few details have been disclosed by those in the know. The rest is based on speculation and reports from "sources" and "officials" such of it contradictory.

Reports that they used diplomatic passports or alternatively ordinary tourist documents which had been doctored by the Central Intelligence Agency

(CIA) have been denied by the Canadian Government. In addition to deep concern about the hostages, the Administration clearly wants to keep details of the escape shrouded in mystery to protect the Canadian and American officials who were involved in those details that are available have come from the Ottawa Government.

By maintaining a low profile, officials also hope that efforts underway at the United Nations in New York to work out a deal with the Iranians for the release of the hostages can continue unimpeded.

All sorts of possibilities are under consideration but they boil down basically to a formula under which the United Nations would set up some kind of international inquiry into the past activities of the exiled Shah in return for the safe return of the remaining captives.

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## OVERSEAS

## Mrs Gandhi complains that West is turning Pakistan into arsenal

Delhi, Jan 30.—Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, said today that the world had moved closer to a nuclear confrontation and the West was turning Pakistan into an arsenal.

She told Parliament she felt disturbed by Western reaction to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and India would try to defuse the crisis. India wanted to improve its relations with both Pakistan and China, she said.

Closer cooperation with the Soviet Union would not be sought at the cost of relations with the United States.

In her first important statement on foreign policy since she returned to power earlier this month, Mrs Gandhi said the world in recent months had moved closer to a nuclear confrontation between big powers.

"We are anxious that the present drift towards a hot war should be stopped by the combined effort of all the right-thinking people in the world," Mr Clark Gifford, President Carter's special envoy, who was a former United States Defence Secretary, arrived in Delhi today for talks with Mrs Gandhi. She will also meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who is expected in Delhi on February 12.

Referring to the Soviet action in Afghanistan, Mrs Gandhi told Parliament: "We do not approve of foreign presence or intervention anywhere in the world. However, we do not believe in one-sided condemnation."

India's efforts were directed at securing the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but the misery of the Afghan

people would only be prolonged if Muslim insurgents, whom she referred to as armed bands, continued to be trained and provided with bases across the border in Pakistan.

"We cannot but feel disturbed by the reaction of some powers over these developments in Afghanistan," Mrs Gandhi said. "Billions and billions of dollars have been asked for. Hundreds of millions have already been committed to Pakistan as military aid by the United States. Other powers are persuaded to make their contribution to convert Pakistan into an arsenal. The People's Republic of China has also pledged to provide arms and other assistance to Pakistan."

Mrs Gandhi had previously expressed concern that arms supplied to Pakistan might be used against India.

When members expressed concern over Pakistan's reported efforts to develop what is known here as an "Islamic" nuclear bomb, Mrs Gandhi said: "There is nothing Christian, Islamic, Buddhist or Hindu about nuclear bombs or other weapons of mass destruction. Production of a nuclear bomb by a country in the region is bound to increase suspicion and fear."

Corruption report: Mr Zail Singh, the Home Minister, said in written parliamentary reply that the Government was studying the report of a special judge into charges of corruption against the families of Mr Morarji Desai and Mr Charan Singh, the former prime ministers. He gave no indication of the judge's findings.—Reuters.

## Islamabad wants military pact with US clarified

From Hasan Akhtar  
Islamabad, Jan 30

Pakistan wanted to know under what circumstances the 1959 United States-Pakistan military pact would be applicable. Mr Agha Shahi, foreign affairs adviser to President Zia-ul-Haq of Pakistan, said here today.

Mr Shahi said he would raise the question with Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the United States National Security Adviser, when he arrives in Islamabad on Friday for two days of talks.

Talking to reporters, Mr Shahi said: "We would like Brzezinski to say how did the United States propose to approach Pakistan's concerns. We look forward to clarifications of our questions which are reassuring to us."

He said he would like to

know how Mr Brzezinski evaluated the threat in military terms arising from the Afghan situation and what role the United Nations could play in containing it.

Pakistan would also like to know how Pakistan security could be strengthened in the context of the existing treaty of friendship between India and the Soviet Union, specifically when its signatories had been affirming the treaty as a factor for peace and stability in the region.

The Pakistan foreign affairs adviser ruled out the extension of Nato to Pakistan, pointing out that it would hurt Pakistan's relations with China and Iran apart from other Muslim countries. He emphasized that Pakistan sought United States assistance on a bilateral basis.

## Dear me, how should I address you?

From Michael Leapman  
New York, Jan 30

A studiously courteous debate is being conducted in the columns of *The New York Times* about how to begin letters to people and companies of unknown gender. "Dear Sir" is increasingly inappropriate and often offends women, as does the plural "gentlemen", which Americans generally use instead of "Dear Sirs".

The discussion began when a chain of hotels announced it would replace "Dear Sir" with "All Customers" or "Every Guest"—a remedy which, as *The New York Times* pointed out, is not open to everyone. In a leading article, the paper rejected "Gentleperson" as silly and "To whom it may concern" as excessively lofty, while it feared that "Sir/Madam" may convey a pointedly sarcastic, androgynous sneer.

For want of a better alternative, the leader writer decided to stick with "Dear Sir", and in doing so aroused many of his/her readers. Among their suggestions were "The Responsible Person", "Dear People", "Greetings", and "Dear Friend" while the paper itself suggested today that "Dear" might suit if the letter was an angry one and you wanted to make the recipient wonder whether an unprintable appellation had been omitted.

The rather feeble consensus was that there need be no salutation at all; the letter-writer should simply plunge into the message. This is a ruse which this correspondent uses, but it does seem an un-American compromise, lacking the dynamic sense of certainty which made the country what it is.

The recognized authorities are of little help. The new edition of *The Art of Writing*, by Letitia Baldrige in 1977, says that in cases of doubt you should not send a letter at all, but instead use the form of a memorandum which does not need any initial salutation.

Emily Post says "Dear Madam" should be used if you are sure the recipient will be a woman, but "Dear Sir" if there is any doubt. *De Vries's Correct Form* agrees, as it does with the stipulation that "Mesdames" should not be used as the female of "Gentlemen".

Watson's *Standard Book of Letter Writing*, in the 1968 revision, is the strictest of all. It rules that "Gentlemen" is correct even if you are writing to a company composed entirely of women.

I beg to remain, dear readers, yours etc.



The driver of this car was fortunate to escape with his life when in early morning darkness he drove into a 50-foot hole caused by heavy rain in southern California.

## Poll terrorism incidents as 20 million Filipinos vote

Manila, Jan 30.—About 20 million Filipinos cast their votes today in the largest turnout in the country's history to elect 18,000 local officials of President Ferdinand Marcos' martial law regime.

There were scattered reports of vote-buying, flying voters, and shootings. President Marcos ordered the arrest of six people in northern Luzon, including a member of the Assembly and a gubernatorial candidate on charges of electoral terrorism.

Otherwise, indications pointed to generally peaceful voting and good results for the Government's New Society Movement in the 73 provinces.

So far, eight people have died from electoral violence since the electoral campaign for provincial governors, town and city mayors and councilors started on December 29.

Electoral Commission sources said three people were killed during the voting on the island of Samar. A candidate for mayor was shot dead in Camarines Sur, the driver of a candidate was killed in an ambush near Iloilo.

## Premiers meet next week on Korean unity

Seoul, Jan 30.—North Korea has agreed to a South Korean proposal to hold a preliminary meeting at Panmunjom on February 6 to prepare for talks at Prime Minister level, it was announced here today.

A South Korean spokesman said that a letter from Mr Lee Jong Ok, the North Korean Prime Minister, addressed to Mr Shin Hyon Hwak, the South Korean Prime Minister, was received through liaison officers at Panmunjom this morning.

The letter was in reply to Mr Shin's letter of a week ago proposing a preparatory meeting.

The North Korean Central News Agency said today that a meeting between the North and South Korean Prime Ministers for an exchange of views on the unification of the countries.

But it did not say when such a meeting would take place. The agency said that Mr Shin had been the first to respond to the North Korean call on January 11 for the North-South contacts.

—Agence France-Presse.

## French Navy on patrol as Tunisia fighting continues

From Charles Hargrove  
Paris, Jan 30

Three French Navy warships have left Toulon for patrol duties in the eastern Mediterranean, following the outbreak of fighting in Gafsa, central Tunisia. The Tunisian Government is convinced the fighting was planned by Libya.

The three ships, the missile carrying cruiser Colbert, the anti-submarine frigate Dugay-Trouin and the fast escort vessel Vendée, were escorted by four submarines.

The Maritime Prefect of Toulon stated that about 15 French Navy units carried out different missions throughout the year in all parts of the Mediterranean and that the ships concerned were engaged in one of these missions.

Sporadic fighting is still going on in the Gafsa region, where the insurgents have taken to the hills. So far, losses on both sides amount to about 50 dead and 250 injured. Some 60 rebels have been captured by the Tunisian forces which control the city, the most important in central Tunisia. The insurrec-

tion appears to have benefited from local support and also from Algerian backing, though not by the Algerian Government, which has denied that the rebels were based in Algeria.

The well armed and equipped group of 300 rebels penetrated into Tunisia from Algeria, the border of which is about 30 miles north of Gafsa, and converged on the city while the garrison was away on manoeuvres. It attacked two barracks, and the headquarters of the gendarmes. According to French experts stationed in the area, fighting was fierce all day Sunday.

Tunisian reinforcements hastily despatched to the area now appear to have the situation under control.

According to *Le Monde*, a number of the prisoners taken had been trained in Libya. There are several hundred Tunisians in Libya who took part in a plot against President Bourguiba in 1962 and regrouped in a Progressive Liberation Front set up in Tripoli in 1969.

## World View

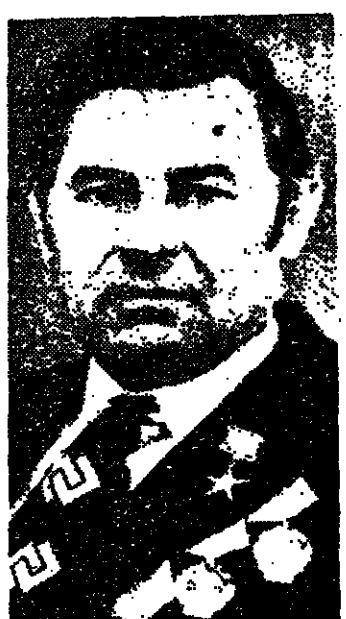
## Variations on the theme of doves and hawks and how Soviet behaviour can be interpreted

The debate among Sovietologists on the reasons and meanings of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and related events (Dr Sakharov's arrest, the dismissal of Academician Kirillin), as well as the discussion between Western governments on how to react to these disturbing events, have produced such an enormous flow of words that it has become very difficult to identify the main trends of thought. An attempt to do so may however be useful.

In considering the various opinions a series of striking dichotomies present themselves. Some people say that there really was no change in Soviet policy, others that there was a major change. Some do not believe that détente ever existed, others think it did. Some experts think that the Russians acted the way they did because they felt strong, others say that they did what they did because they felt weak. Some claim that their aims were mostly defensive, while according to others they were offensive.

Unfortunately these dichotomies do not lend themselves to only two groups: the dichotomies are mixed up in a messy way, the number of possible combinations being astronomically high. I have reached the conclusion that there are, however, four main groups, which could be labelled: the hawks; the doves; the dovish hawks; and the hawkish doves.

To give a few examples. I think that Mr Carter, though behaving like a hawk, is only a dovish dove. Mr Brezhnev, Mr Callaghan, are hawkish doves. Mrs Thatcher is a real hawk and talks like one, though she behaves more like a hawkish dove. Herr Schmidt, the German Chancellor, is a dove reluctantly turning



Mr Yuri Marchuk who has replaced Mr Kirillin as chairman of the State Committee for Science and Technology.

hawkish. President Giscard d'Estaing is a dovish hawk—quite a different bird. Dr Kissinger is the original hawkish dove. So by the way is Mr Brzezinski, though he tries fiercely to look like a hawk. I hope that I have not turned some old friends into enemies and offer no more names.

Let me try and sum up instead the main views of the four groups. The hawks are easily described. They believe that there has been no change at all in Soviet policy. The doves, on the other hand, are new, for the simple reason that détente never existed, except as a Western illusion. What has happened is

that the Russian bear has abandoned its sheep's clothing as soon as it had developed stronger fangs and claws, and once it had become convinced that, thanks to its clever détente-act, it had transformed the American eagle into a sparrow. And of course the Russian aims are offensive: global domination.

The only change, say the hawks, is that, at long last, the West is now discovering the real nature of its enemy. The hawks do not think that the Russians will ever change or that détente will ever exist. They only want the West to become again indisputably stronger, so that it can teach the Russians a lesson which will force them to behave better in the future. If the price of that is an unlimited arms race and the risk of an atomic war, so much the worse (for Moscow).

The doves are convinced that détente was real, indeed they believe that it is still in existence in some regions of the world, that it is "divisible" and must be protected where it survives. They jealously defend Europe's "little détente". The doves find excuses for the Soviet adventure in Afghanistan: a "regional" affair, they say, the Russians having made the mistake of believing that the West had already accepted that the wretched country belonged to the Soviet Union, just as Czechoslovakia did.

The Russians must be reassured—say the doves—about the peaceful intentions of the West, having been upset by Mr Carter's talk about civil rights and Mr Brzezinski's flirt with Peking. Once reassured, they will show us that they still love détente.

The dovish hawks believe, as real hawks do, that there are

by Arrigo Levi

no doves in international politics. If détente ever existed, it only was "the continuation of the Cold War with other means", as André Fontaine says. The dovish hawks have no illusions about the imperialistic nature of the Soviet Union: but they believe that all states are "cold monsters", all great powers are imperialistic.

Finally, the hawkish doves (a category to which I am happy to belong), believe that détente was real, except that it was too limited and imperfect to survive. Hawkish doves believe that there has been a real change of strategy in Moscow, based on the Russians' perceptions of both their weaknesses and strength, of looming dangers and opportunities, inside the Soviet Union and in the global balance of power.

But, say the hawkish doves, the Russians have enough common sense to be persuaded, by a strong show of Western unity and power, that there is no future in aggression and that a wider global détente is in their own interest, as well as in the interest of Man's survival on Earth.

European hawkish doves want to keep the word détente alive: the offer of a new détente must always be kept open to the Russians. The more dovish instincts of Continental Europeans may be of some use in preventing America from overreacting (to its own past weaknesses as well as to the Russian challenge), and in keeping open channels of negotiation. But it would be fatal for the very hopes of the Europeans in the resurrection of a more genuine détente if Europe allowed itself to become separated from America, being incapable of defending, alone, its own vital interests and independence.

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## Japan nervous over use of Okinawa-based marines

From Our Correspondent  
Tokyo, Jan 30

Japan, highly sensitive against any involvement in matters related to international security, has reacted sharply to the report of Mr Harold Brown, the United States Defence Secretary, to Congress, yesterday, which included a suggestion of deploying in the Gulf area American Marines based on Okinawa.

In spite of official government denials to the contrary, opposition parties and newspapers today asserted that such an arrangement, if carried out, would constitute a violation of the United States-Japan security treaty in which areas

and scope of United States military movement from Japan are limited to the Far East.

In his report to Congress, Mr Brown was quoted as saying that a "more substantial Marine force" could be reinforced from Okinawa to ground operations in the Gulf area. The United States Marine force of 22,000 men stationed in Okinawa is part of the 45,000 man defence structure which the United States keeps in Japan as an off-shore defence contingent.

Opposition representatives asked Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Prime Minister, in the House of Councillors (Upper House)

plenary session yesterday if such arrangements would also run counter to the provisions of the security treaty which call for "prior consultation" between the two governments on important troop movements.

While in theory Japan can veto any such United States requests, it has never invoked such authority, not even when American forces in Japan, including amphibious marine elements, were actively engaged in the Vietnam war. Indeed, there is no available evidence to show that such consultation has ever been held at all.

A statement by Mr Brown that there was a need on the part of Japan to expand its mili-

tary cooperation with the United States as provided for in the security treaty into "combined planning efforts by the United States, Western Europe and Japan" also provoked strong resistance.

Opposition parties and newspapers suspected that such a trilateral arrangement might be designed to integrate Japanese defence capabilities on a global basis which, according to them, would constitute a collective security arrangement prohibited under Japan's constitution.

Mr Ohira replied that this reflected a general desire on the part of Washington and "does not represent at all" any specific plan.

# Thanks for everything.

(Well, almost everything.)

You've just done a marvellous job paying off phone bills covering up to nine months' calls and six months' rental.

You virtually cleared the whole of last year's backlog in one go.

The only thing left over, in fact, is one quarter's rental.

This will be added to your next bill, which will arrive over the next three months.

We'd like to remind you, too, that some of the calls and part of the rental on this bill will be at the new rates that came in at the beginning of the year.

So please bear in mind that it'll be a bit larger than usual.

But at least you've the consolation of knowing that, once you've paid it, you're bang up to date.

Post Office Telecommunications



PARLIAMENT, January 30, 1980

# Casting vote allows further thought on televising of debates

House of Commons  
Mr Austin Mitchell (Grimby, Lab) obtained leave to bring in a Bill to amend the television of debates in the House of Commons when Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Deputy Speaker, broke a tie vote by casting his own in favour of the Bill.

He said, as explained, in order to give the House an opportunity to consider the matter again. MPs had voted 201 in favour and 201 against the Bill.

Mr Mitchell said that surveys of public opinion showed that the televising of debates was a matter of great importance to the House of Commons and that it was a matter which the House should consider again.

He added that a modern Parliament was no longer a closed debating chamber in which members tried to sway the opinion of their constituents. The House was the stage where the political battle was fought. It was the great forum of the nation where the issues of the day were debated.

Those functions made communications to the world outside essential and yet the House was a stage where few people watched or heard. If constituents had little knowledge of what was going on or what was being discussed, it was because they were excluded.

It was no good saying people should queue to get in the public gallery or sit in the public gallery. The reporting of proceedings in the quality press was a garbled account.

Radio was not an appropriate medium for coverage. It gave the impression of chaos and disorder. Listeners were left with the impression that the House was a place of confusion and that the issues were being debated in a haphazard manner.

They should look at the success of the Canadian House of Commons, after being feared, was now accepted.

This is a serious attempt the Bill to bring the House to the people of our country, to bring us into line with those European parliaments which allow coverage by television.

They could not afford to put themselves in the position, as they seemed to be saying, that either proceedings were so awful they must be kept from the people or the people were too stupid to comprehend all that went on in the chamber.

The chamber seriously discussed issues which affected people and they would be better off seeing it. Television coverage of the House was a matter of great importance to the House of Commons and that it was a matter which the House should consider again.

Television was essentially a branch of show business. It must continuously entertain. By its very nature it excluded the serious, the trivial and the scandalous. It would do the same in the House.

It was bound to emphasize the background noises, the scenes, the angry exchanges across the House.

# Stamp duty an old and honourable tax

House of Lords  
A suggestion that foreigners buying property in Britain should be taxed was made by a Conservative peer during questions to Lord Cockfield, Minister of State, Treasury, about the stamp duty rates on the transfer of property which had been unaltered for five years.

Lady Sharples (C) had said—The Chancellor of the Exchequer should consider raising stamp duty on the much more expensive houses to compensate for the possible loss if he raises the threshold for lower stamp duty on lower priced houses.

Lord Cockfield—That interesting suggestion will certainly be examined. However, I see one immediate problem namely that the increase in the duty on the more expensive houses might be quite considerable to make good the loss of revenue on the smaller properties.

Lord Salisbury (C)—This tax was introduced 1694 three years before the window tax which was abolished in the year of the Great Exhibition. It is time this tax was thrown out of the window of the long-since unlocked windows.

Lord Cockfield—Stamp duties are one of the oldest and most honourable of our taxes. (Laughter.) Their origin lay in the great ease

of taxing a piece of paper rather than a house. It is a somewhat elusive tax. The yield of the stamp duties is £550m so his suggestion does raise certain difficulties.

Lord Morrison—Has the Government considered levying stamp duty not on purchase, but on sale, as is done in certain other countries, to help first-time home buyers while largely maintaining revenue?

Lord Cockfield—The stamp duty itself is not a charge either on the buyer or seller. It is discharged on the conveyance itself. It is so arranged that the person who has the deeds, de facto the burden tends to fall on the purchaser. It is open to question whether it is better to put the burden on the seller that it would not be passed on in the price.

This is an interesting suggestion which we have looked at before and we have not taken it up.

Lord Hawke—The Government should consider an extra tax on the purchase of property in this country by foreigners such as Arabs and Indians.

Lord Cockfield—While I am always grateful to receive suggestions, ones for the imposition of new taxes are not always particularly popular. (Laughter.)

Artificially low price of domestic gas to be phased out

The poorest sections of the community would be used as instruments of conservation when the Government increased prices for gas and electricity, Lord Strabolgh, for the Opposition, said when he opened a debate on the increases.

He said in real terms the Government decision would increase gas by 29 per cent, and electricity by 23 per cent during 1980. It had also decided that prices must continue to rise every year for the next three years by 10 per cent more than the inflation rate for gas, and 5 per cent for electricity.

Forecast from the London Business School calculated that within three years gas prices would have increased by more than 80 per cent and electricity by nearly 60 per cent.

The rate and pace of these increases, far above the rate of inflation, had caused considerable alarm throughout the country. They would fall most heavily on the poorest sections of the community, particularly on those people who used gas because it was cheaper. The higher prices would have a grave effect, particularly in Scotland and the north where the climate was more severe, and there would be increased risks of deaths from hypothermia.

The Government claimed that the enormous increase in the price of gas was to reduce demand and to conserve a finite source of energy, but it would be those people least able to bear it who would be used as instruments of conservation.

The old and the poor people would be deprived of it available

# Mr Walker attacked his success in fisheries negotiations

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, came under attack for his success in the negotiations with the European Community for a fisheries agreement. Mr Walker, who had been in Brussels yesterday on a mission to negotiate the agreement, was attacked by Mr Roy Mason, chief Opposition spokesman on agriculture and fisheries, said the Leader of the House had promised a better deal before agreement was reached.

Mr Walker, in a statement to the Council of Fisheries Ministers' meeting yesterday, said that agreement had been reached on a fisheries agreement (TACs) for 1980.

He said: These are based on scientific advice with a few minor changes to take account of arrangements with third countries and, in very limited circumstances, on the basis of the agreement on the TACs.

Agreement was also reached on the introduction of a Community system of catch reporting. Reporting will start next month on the basis of existing procedures and a full Community system is intended to be agreed by July.

The signature of the framework agreement with Norway, Spain and Guinea-Bissau were agreed to in the case of Norway this will help to strengthen the Community's links with a country whose waters provide United Kingdom fishermen with very important fishing opportunities.

In the case of Spain the Community's willingness to sign the framework agreement because of the reference in it to reciprocity of fishing opportunities, helped the Commission in the forthcoming negotiations with Spain on Spanish fishing during 1980.

This was a meeting in which significant progress was made towards agreement on a revised common fisheries policy.

Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Lab) said Mr Walker must think that he has reached a deal. He has reached a deal, he said, but it is not a deal that the House of Commons would accept.

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# Henley Tories have offices controversy

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was said during questions that he had no plans to develop municipal enterprise, was then involved in exchanges about a plan by Conservative councillors in his own constituency for a new £31m office block for headquarters.

Mr David Alton (Liverpool, Edge Hill, Lab) asked Mr Heseltine—What advice will be given to the Mayor and leader of his own local council in Henley who resigned this week, and to five Tory councillors there, who have called a special council meeting, to consider development of the £31m office block?

Mr Heseltine (Henley, C)—It is difficult for me to comment. I am not involved in the decision. I am not involved in the decision. I am not involved in the decision.

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# Getting swift decisions from planners

Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services (Bridgwater, C), questioned about streamlining planning procedures, said—We hope to introduce a new planning system in the next few months. It will be a new planning system. It will be a new planning system.

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# Long delays in sale of council houses

In some areas there were substantial delays in processing applications for the sale of council houses, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said.

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# Heritage fund to get charitable status for taxation purposes

On the report stage of the National Heritage Bill which establishes a fund for acquiring and preserving historic buildings and monuments, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, said.

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## THE ARTS

## Meryl Streep: stages of stardom

Meryl Streep arrived in London this week with any number of turns-of-the-decade has attached to her. "A Star for the '80s". "The hottest actress in America." Fortunately Miss Streep is too intelligent and too sophisticated to be flattered by the headlines. She wears her labels lightly and merely recalls that her grandmother used to comment that today's newspaper wraps tomorrow's fish. And after a pause she adds that she has become accustomed to seeing her own face stare up from the newspaper among the garbage in the gutter.

The fame and acclaim have come from five pictures in quick succession. *The Deer Hunter*, *Chinatown*, *Marathon*, *Soylent Green* and *Yankee Doodle* have been seen on television all over America and Europe. The *Deer Hunter* was the first, and the last, of the five. It was the first of the five to be seen on television all over America and Europe. The *Deer Hunter* was the first, and the last, of the five. It was the first of the five to be seen on television all over America and Europe.

role was in *The Deer Hunter*, where she played the simple steel town girl whose life is interrupted when the men with whom she grew up are summoned to Vietnam. That again came from the recommendation of a casting director.

"Nobody realizes the power of these people. Or their value. They are the unsung members of the movie industry, because casting is 80 per cent of the road to success. In *The Deer Hunter* the method was bizarre. Bobby De Niro was up to that time basically a theatre man and the director, Michael Cimino, came from commercials. He was a very good actor, and he knew little about actors. Most of us were taken direct from Broadway—Chris Walken was playing in *Sweet Bird of Youth*—and I know of scarcely any movies set up that way. I was Danyasha in *The Cherry Orchard* at the Lincoln Centre, which was scarcely the best preparation. A very jokey part involving a lot of pratfalls."

Andrei Serban, who is currently in Cardiff directing *Eugene Onegin* for the Welsh National Opera, produced Chabrier's play with total personal vision, as was reported on this page at the time. It upset a lot of people, but delighted a generation of theatre-goers who had not been preconditioned into insisting on a "Chabrier style". In visual terms it is certainly the best *Cherry Orchard* I have seen.

"Joe Papp, who presented it, knew that it would be unpopular in certain quarters. It wouldn't please 'the Viennese', as he calls them, the miscoated brigade. But I agree with

your assessment. Andrei's eye is unerring: he's the best film director I know who has never made a film."

The *Seduction of Joe Tynan*, originally called *The Senator*, arrived at one of the worst moments of Meryl Streep's life. She had been living with John Cazale, who also appeared in *The Deer Hunter*, and had nursed him while he was dying of cancer. Two scripts came through simultaneously from her agent. One was a remake of *Love Story*, recommended by the agency because it carried a large fee and to which Miss Streep said "Ugh". The other was a story scripted by Alan Alda about a senator who finds that the processes of getting the presidential nomination and keeping his family together are not altogether compatible. The Streep role is that of the liberated Southern attorney who does the seducing of that title. In the end she loses her man and the film has something of the gentle flavour of Frank Capra's pictures, such as *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, where goodness triumphs in the end.

"Capra? Could be. I'm not a movie buff. I went to the cinema to follow the story not to read the credits, which is what half of New York concentrates on. But, yes, it has a certain innocence. Why does the senator go back to his wife at the end? I've argued this with Alan. What's wrong with me? Mr. Deeds? Wasn't that the one with Jean Arthur? She was one of my drama teachers at Vassar."

The next assignment is *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, which Harold Pinter has scripted from John Fowles' novel and which Karel Reisz will start directing in Dorset in April. Then possibly comes *Sophie's Choice*, directed by Alan J. Pakula and taken from William Styron's best seller of last year. No contract has been signed, but Meryl Streep has been demonstrating the Polish accent required for the title role.

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## LPO/Pritchard Festival Hall

## William Mann

It was Brahms Through Other Ears on Tuesday when John Pritchard, conductor of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, played with real zest, made a potent case for Schoenberg's version. It should certainly be played more frequently.

Kagel's work, entitled *Variations without Fugue for large orchestra on the Variations and Fugue on a Theme by Handel for piano, opus 24, by Johannes Brahms*, was commissioned by the city of Hamburg, where the older composer was born. The main linear features of Brahms's variations and their rhythms, are preserved, the harmony usually poignantly expanded, the orchestral textures not remotely suggestive of Brahms.

Kagel's most personal contribution was to alter the order of the selected variations (carefully designed by Brahms as a large musical structure) and reconnect them with linking passages for a quarter of strings separately disposed. The results, especially for those closely familiar with the original, are interesting and spirited, as Kagel's music usually is, but not truly absorbing. A pleasant touch occurs at the end when Handel's theme is heard on harpsichord against orchestral harmony. Alas the amplification of the instrument was not working and the theme was barely audible. The conductor was properly upset, as he told the audience after the programme.

## Nash Ensemble Queen Elizabeth Hall

## Paul Griffiths

Celebrating its first quarter century this year, Boulez's *Le marteau sans maître* is no longer a mysterious casket triple-locked against understanding. Musicologists are beginning at last to unravel the labyrinthine processes of its construction, and with every performance it grows less fearsome, richer in meanings and wider in expressive range, for as the style loses its strangeness so the sense becomes more apparent. The work is taking ownership in our minds of its long-promised classic status, as witness the extraordinary number of study scores that fluttered to attention as Tuesday's performers took the stage.

Sarah Walker and the Nash Ensemble approached the composition as a quite normal piece of vocal chamber music, as normal as the *Quatre poèmes hindous* by Maurice Delage which had come earlier on the programme. Of course Miss Walker toned down the voluptuousness she had rightly adopted for the earlier work, but she kept an ample breath of phrasing to contend nicely with her steeley tone. Of course, too, the conductor Leonard Friend was faced with many more problems in the Boulez, but he and

ment, even with Schoenberg's heavy brass writing and triple woodwind, creates an ear-splittingly harsh and earnestly symphonic rhapsody. Mr Pritchard's spirited, gracious interpretation, played with real zest, made a potent case for Schoenberg's version. It should certainly be played more frequently.

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his players made the music utterly natural and, as a result, powerfully meaningful.

I have never before heard a performance which brought out so much of the density of cross-reference within Boulez's score, and for that the instrumentalists deserve high praise for thoroughly feeling their parts, for being alive to their importance within the rapidly shifting textures, and for matching their playing so skillfully. Another striking feature here was the abundance of picturesque detail they provided in what is often regarded as an austere, non-descriptive work. For example, flute, guitar and violin irresistibly suggested the dry waves of a dead sea as they raced and gathered in the fifth movement, and in the sixth there were aching glimpses of a world where time has stopped.

Apart from the Delage, the first part of the concert included Ravel's Introduction and Allegro, a Nash Ensemble piece which seems unfortunately accident-prone, and also Gordon Crosse's *Wildboy*. Suggested by the Truffaut film *L'enfant sauvage*, this was written for the Nash a couple of years ago and makes an attractive enough showpiece for their clarinetist Anthony Pay, pitted against cymbalom and septet. Since Crosse disclaims any narrative intention, it seemed perverse of Mr Pay to dress himself in T-shirt and jeans.



Timothy West as Becham

## Becham Apollo

## Irving Wardle

I doubt whether we should be seeing this Salisbury Playhouse production in London were it not an occasion for Tim West to display a new acquisition to his gallery of famous national characters.

The West collection, from Wilde to Churchill, are a diverse crowd, but what they have in common is an existence in the popular imagination quite independent of historical context. Whatever they said or did at the time, they live on simply as characters. Thomas Becham is a natural recruit to this company: a clown classicist known to thousands who might expect to go ball-room dancing to Richard Strauss or put down *Koanga* as a cuddly bear.

Caryl Brahms and Ned Sherin have supplied the material

for such a portrait; and the result is, composed with Mr West's usual scrupulous care, his knack for discovering individual mannerisms and building on them and his great skill for pointing jokes.

I only saw Becham once but it all seems there, from the jutting imperial beard and irritably working mouth, to the commanding articulation of the Gibbonese phrases, and the separation of each syllable in favourite words like "extraordinary" and "remarkable" so that they seem to be conveying much higher praise than if he had been calling someone a genius. The acting is a bit stiff, but if Becham himself had been on the Apollo stage facing a row of empty desks in Richard Marks's mock-up of the Albert Hall, his bear might have lacked some of its accustomed zest.

Patrick Garland's production is not a play but a contribution to the Becham legend told mainly in the subject's own

words. Mr West shares the stage with one other actor: the unfortunate Terry Wale, who begins as an adoring dogbody narrator, and pops back into this role whenever his services are not required as an orchestral player, an accountant, an American caller or whatever other victim is required to suffer the blast of the great man's wit.

Consisting partly of gags ginned end to end and partly of deadpan biography, the text is rudimentary to a degree that defeats stagecraft and clear chronology. As you would expect, there are plenty of good lines. ("Try everything once, except incest and folk dancing"), but many that must have gladdened the hearts of orchestral players on a cold Monday morning fall decidedly flat when ripped out of context and given the "Wit and Wisdom" treatment. It would be nice to hear what Becham would have said about the dreadful quality of the show's sound reproduction.

ances in the Dance Umbrella series it has diminished to just the pair of them but with two such dancers who need more? Actually they do also have projected still photographs of David Vaughan as a most unlikely pope, and his voice narrating a deadpan spoof account of the origin of papal audiences, while David Gordon dances a solo. The sound-track, with its explanation of "pope dances" (whence pop-dances, whence pop-pops, whence pop-pops, whence pop-pops), is so hilarious that you are in danger of missing the skill, originality and casual elegance of the dance.

Setterfield's solo at Riverside Studios on Tuesday was a sequence of poses based on a collection of photographs; you do not see the pictures, but hear Gordon's recorded voice commenting on her attempts at them in rehearsal, with some interjections from her. Is that actually a dance? Perhaps not, but it is an interesting and theatrical use of a dancer's disciplined body. Their opening duet, *Close up*, is highly affectionate (you could not perform it with a stranger), full of embraces and falls into or out of the other's arms. The pace is slow, interrupted every now and again by poses during which enlarged photographs of what they are doing are projected on the screen behind them. But the conscious shaping of bodies and of the spaces between them, with the sustained control of timing, ensure that this piece is always unmistakably a real dance.

## Pick Up Company Riverside

## John Percival

If all experimental dancers were as talented, pleasant and entertaining as David Gordon and Valda Setterfield, how much more popular experimental dance would be. Some of us remember her as a gifted member of Merce Cunningham's company, but now she is appearing with her husband. He calls his company the Pick Up Company, describes it as "permanently temporary" and enlarges or diminishes it at will. For their British appear-

ances in the Dance Umbrella series it has diminished to just the pair of them but with two such dancers who need more? Actually they do also have projected still photographs of David Vaughan as a most unlikely pope, and his voice narrating a deadpan spoof account of the origin of papal audiences, while David Gordon dances a solo. The sound-track, with its explanation of "pope dances" (whence pop-dances, whence pop-pops, whence pop-pops, whence pop-pops), is so hilarious that you are in danger of missing the skill, originality and casual elegance of the dance.

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions

For their British appear-

## THEATRES

YOUNG VIC. 41-42-43. 44-45. 46-47. 48-49. 50-51. 52-53. 54-55. 56-57. 58-59. 60-61. 62-63. 64-65. 66-67. 68-69. 70-71. 72-73. 74-75. 76-77. 78-79. 80-81. 82-83. 84-85. 86-87. 88-89. 90-91. 92-93. 94-95. 96-97. 98-99. 100-101. 102-103. 104-105. 106-107. 108-109. 110-111. 112-113. 114-115. 116-117. 118-119. 120-121. 122-123. 124-125. 126-127. 128-129. 130-131. 132-133. 134-135. 136-137. 138-139. 140-141. 142-143. 144-145. 146-147. 148-149. 150-151. 152-153. 154-155. 156-157. 158-159. 160-161. 162-163. 164-165. 166-167. 168-169. 170-171. 172-173. 174-175. 176-177. 178-179. 180-181. 182-183. 184-185. 186-187. 188-189. 190-191. 192-193. 194-195. 196-197. 198-199. 200-201. 202-203. 204-205. 206-207. 208-209. 210-211. 212-213. 214-215. 216-217. 218-219. 220-221. 222-223. 224-225. 226-227. 228-229. 230-231. 232-233. 234-235. 236-237. 238-239. 240-241. 242-243. 244-245. 246-247. 248-249. 250-251. 252-253. 254-255. 256-257. 258-259. 260-261. 262-263. 264-265. 266-267. 268-269. 270-271. 272-273. 274-275. 276-277. 278-279. 280-281. 282-283. 284-285. 286-287. 288-289. 290-291. 292-293. 294-295. 296-297. 298-299. 300-301. 302-303. 304-305. 306-307. 308-309. 310-311. 312-313. 314-315. 316-317. 318-319. 320-321. 322-323. 324-325. 326-327. 328-329. 330-331. 332-333. 334-335. 336-337. 338-339. 340-341. 342-343. 344-345. 346-347. 348-349. 350-351. 352-353. 354-355. 356-357. 358-359. 360-361. 362-363. 364-365. 366-367. 368-369. 370-371. 372-373. 374-375. 376-377. 378-379. 380-381. 382-383. 384-385. 386-387. 388-389. 390-391. 392-393. 394-395. 396-397. 398-399. 400-401. 402-403. 404-405. 406-407. 408-409. 410-411. 412-413. 414-415. 416-417. 418-419. 420-421. 422-423. 424-425. 426-427. 428-429. 430-431. 432-433. 434-435. 436-437. 438-439. 440-441. 442-443. 444-445. 446-447. 448-449. 450-451. 452-453. 454-455. 456-457. 458-459. 460-461. 462-463. 464-465. 466-467. 468-469. 470-471. 472-473. 474-475. 476-477. 478-479. 480-481. 482-483. 484-485. 486-487. 488-489. 490-491. 492-493. 494-495. 496-497. 498-499. 500-501. 502-503. 504-505. 506-507. 508-509. 510-511. 512-513. 514-515. 516-517. 518-519. 520-521. 522-523. 524-525. 526-527. 528-529. 530-531. 532-533. 534-535. 536-537. 538-539. 540-541. 542-543. 544-545. 546-547. 548-549. 550-551. 552-553. 554-555. 556-557. 558-559. 560-561. 562-563. 564-565. 566-567. 568-569



Ronald Butt on the EEC's failure to take on an international role

# European unity: the shattering of an ideal

Last week, Mr Edward Heath delivered a speech on Europe that was relevant to the present international tensions, politically courageous in its implications, and in many ways sad. The courage and the sadness lay in the clear fact that the European Community, as it now is, is not the body that he had expected it to be, for clearly he must have expected it to be (or become) something very different from his present description of it—otherwise, he would not have taken us so confidently into membership.

Nobody could dissent from the statement which was Mr Heath's point of departure. Every major world problem shows up Europe's disunity and inaction when its vital interests are threatened. This has been true from the moment when the Community found itself unable to unite in face of the first oil crisis, after the Six Days War, to their failure to respond as an entity to subsequent crises in the Middle East, and their inability to unite to tackle the present phase of oil price rises, which, Mr Heath pointed out, means that our eight partners have to pay over £17,000 more to import the same quantities of oil now as one year ago. (But Mr Heath's logic is shaky here: he invites us to think that £17,000 shared between eight countries, most of which are more prosperous than ourselves, "dwarfs" the net deficit of over £1,000 which has to be paid to the EEC by a Britain, which is one of the least prosperous members and is gripped by acute financial sickness.)

Again, to quote Mr Heath, "political instability has mounted in the vital areas stretching from Turkey

to Pakistan", the security of the West is seriously endangered by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan—and yet "the Community has failed to take a single initiative commensurate in scope" with these problems. He observed Mr Heath's comment on Europe's leaders have been "gripped" by the internal questions of lamb carcasses, fishing rights and Britain's budgetary problem, "while the world has slipped into mauling chaos around them".

Yet if we are honest with ourselves, what solid evidence did we ever have, even in the greatest days of the Community, that it would be otherwise when the ordeal came? Some of us who were sceptical about the economic benefits we should derive from the "cold douche" of competition (it has actually helped to give us economic pneumonia) hoped that the Community might slowly develop some degree of common political identity that would assist the stability of the West. Believing that as the British establishment had determined to go in, and that therefore we had no real option, my own hopes rested much more on the possibility that the Community could lead gradually towards some sort of political defence union, but it was never more than a doubtful hope, particularly bearing in mind France's persistent history of narrow self-interest in its approach to every question affecting the EEC.

At all events, it seemed that, if there were to be benefits to the West, the price we should have to pay for entry, they should be looked for more in the area of political co-operation than from the financial and industrial planning of Brussels

bureaucrats. But as Mr Heath has virtually admitted, any such hopes (and they were never built on solid ground) of greater unity have been largely shattered.

We now see the Community much more plainly for what it is—namely a bilateral political-economic axis between France and Germany on all essential matters, round which revolve, for their own protection and convenience, the lesser states on the mainland of Europe. We ourselves remain in uneasy tension, unable to determine, as we contemplate with annoyance the cost of membership, whether we should turn our affections firmly back across the Atlantic, or our charms across the Channel. (There is no doubt where Mrs Thatcher has turned both.)

Yet there is a curious sense in which mainland Europe has subconsciously achieved a certain unity in face of Russia's occupation of Afghanistan. It is a unity consisting in a certain psychological engagement from the more forthright expression of American determination in the Middle East. It reflects the fact that Europe, and especially Germany, has most to lose by the ending of détente. It is an attitude that dovetails with the clear implication in the new phase of American foreign policy that the defence of the Persian Gulf now has virtually equal priority, in Washington's calculations, with the defence of Europe.

But, of course, this is a risky as well as a negative kind of European "unity", and Mr Heath is right to remind us that since American and European interests cannot always coincide as closely as they did, Europe should participate more in its

own defence. I doubt, however, whether he is realistic to say also that Europe can play a special part, with its diplomacy and technology, in ending the Græco-Turkish nervous in the Aegean and the conflict between Israel and the PLO. That is surely placing on the EEC a burden that is psychologically unable to bear.

No doubt it would be sensible if European heads of government could now confer about where Europe stands politically. And Mr Heath is right to brush aside (as he did this week in Parliament) empty gestures against Russia.

But to go on from this to imply that Europe (if it would only pull itself together) has such a political role as ought to make us ashamed about being so insistent over our £1,000m is both unrealistic and illogical. Mr Heath's approach is also found in the Foreign Office, where there is a disposition to ask rhetorically whether the £1,000m really is so important a bearing in mind the larger and wider concept of Europe that is at risk.

Well, on Mr Heath's own analysis, that concept is not worth much just now, and there is no evidence that we could buy that sort of unity with our £1,000m or that (if we could) it would be a small price to pay. The fact is that the £1,000m (effectively now nearer £1,300m before deduction of the promised £350m concession) is going to be a substantial factor in the arithmetic of Sir Geoffrey Howe's calculations on the impact on the balance of payments. It is going to make our financial problem much worse.

Mrs Thatcher can accept the £350m (plus whatever is granted extra) together with a promise that

the long-term problem will be looked at, which means very little. Or she could disrupt the Community's day-to-day work, which will settle nothing. Or she could withhold such proportion of Britain's contributions as is necessary, after allowing for receipts, to obliterate most of the £1,000m plus until a permanent settlement is reached.

This will horrify the most dedicated pro-Europeans in Britain, and one must not under-rate the influence of Lord Carrington in persuading Mrs Thatcher against such undiplomatic responses. But the truth is that if we subordinate our own economy and budget to the rules of Europe, we will do nothing to buy the united European foreign policy Mr Heath wants, or that many more of us would like to see if it were possible.

The Europe which Mr Heath knew and loved when he took us into it had grown up in circumstances of economic growth and post-war reconstruction which had given it great achievement without any serious political test. To put it another way, we bought this particular share at the top of its market, and we compare like with unlike it even implicitly we compare the Europe that now is with the Europe of 1970.

We shall get neither our own way over the £1,000m nor a concerted European policy simply by talking nicely to the French, and we should be very foolish to sacrifice our own interests again on the altar of European hopes which we have never had any warrant for believing would turn into facts.

Mr Scargill and the steel strike



Photograph by John Manning

## Why the unions must fight on

If Arthur Scargill was discredited by a steel union official yesterday someone would accuse him of stealing flowers. It was a typical enough response to the latest outbreak of Barnsley-mining in the media.

But the militant president of the Yorkshire Miners' Association is unrepentant about his appeal to steelworkers to listen to their union leader rather than Lord Denning. In an interview with *The Times* he dismissed as "absolute rubbish" allegations that he is seeking martyrdom at the hands of the court of appeal.

Mr Scargill, lauded by many trade unionists as a guru and feared by other people as the greatest threat to society as we know it, told why he is now embroiled in the steel dispute. "The steelworkers' union made an official appeal to the NUM Yorkshire area around Christmas. They asked for financial assistance and for advice on tactics of organizing a strike and picketing. We met them in exactly the same way as we would any other union. We put at their disposal our picketing mops and our organizational logbook which gave a clear outline of how we ran our strikes in 1972 and 1974. They found this very helpful. We gave them a financial donation because they gave us cash in both our strikes. And we agreed to attend their mass meeting in Sheffield."

Returning to his celebrated "statement" to defy the law, Mr Scargill said: "I responded to questions put by press and BBC radio. I said the decision of Lord Denning was deplorable. I based that on recent appeal court judgments which I feel have been anti-trade union, some of which have been overturned by the House of Lords. I said I hoped it would be ignored."

"At the time I made that statement the situation was clearcut. The ISTC was calling an official strike in the private sector. My statement was no different from theirs. People on strike had a choice. They either adhered to their union's instruction or they accepted the court ruling which took away what trade unionists have regarded as a right since 1906. I don't regret making that statement. It was a reasonable statement. We have accepted the ISTC decision to call off the

strike. The blacking of steel by the NUM in Yorkshire is now lifted."

The miners' leader argues that it should come as no surprise to see the NUM actively supporting the steelworkers. "A section of our industry depends very much on steel. Our industries are directly interconnected. If the steelworkers are able to win this dispute and change BSC policy on closures, it will safeguard their jobs and ours. But if they lose, the massive closure programme goes ahead. The impact could be quite devastating economically and politically."

Mr Scargill thinks the Employment Bill now going through Parliament could be "devastating" even though its effects were not as wide ranging as the implications of the Denning decision. "Even so, the legislation will render the trade union movement impotent as it disputes if it is accepted. In the final analysis the unions have a choice: do we accept the law as it stands, and are completely impotent, or do we fight in the way we have always done, and that is strike and picket in the normal way? My view is that we have an obligation to fight on behalf of our members."

In his Barnsley redoubt, Mr Scargill is evidently genuinely dismayed at what he regards as "more than my fair share of defeatism" among the unions.

"The reaction to my remark is tantamount to saying that one must never speak against laws that are oppressive, anti-democratic or against basic freedoms. People who condemn me applaud Scargill for his support of the law. I support Scargill's support of the law with the Soviet Union. But it seems hypocritical to me to applaud his stand and those who oppose the law in the USSR but say in this country we must in all circumstances accept the law. The judgment of Lord Denning and the appeal court strikes at the very heart of democracy, human rights and basic freedom. If this judgment stands, and is accepted it means that man in future will be denied the right he has had since the beginning of this century to approach a fellow worker and ask him for support. To take away that right could well lead us towards a totalitarian state."

Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Bernard Levin

## This inexcusable crime in Forbidden City

I thought it would be at least a month or two before the apologies for the Soviet Union's treatment of Dr Sakharov started to appear, but I reckoned without Mr E. P. Thompson, whose letter in yesterday's *Times* took the now fashionable line, where communist atrocities are concerned, of claiming that they are really "... menacing actions in the West directly encouraged the menacing actions of the Soviet Union and thus contributed to Dr Sakharov's present exile."

Thompson's instructions to "keep a guilty silence" and shall today add my voice to those who have seen the exile of Dr Sakharov for what it is: an inexcusable crime.

First, however, it must be said that if the Soviet authorities imagine they will silence this brave and noble man and his no less brave and noble wife, by confining Dr Sakharov to a Forbidden City, they must be as foolish as they are vile, which would make them very foolish indeed. The time has long since gone by when the Soviet Union could be sealed completely against either the infection of freedom getting in or news of the effect of that infection getting out; there are certainly men and women in Gorky who admire and agree with Dr Sakharov, and who will make it their business to see that his words will get to the West, and that news of the cruelties and injustices practised throughout his native land will get to him.

His wife back in Moscow, has already begun to convey his words to the outside world, and even when the Soviet authorities silence her, too, there will be others to carry on her, and his—and their—work. Of course Dr and Mrs Sakharov will suffer from the new isolation and harassment, but they are among those who bear all things for righteousness' sake, and they will be happier in the knowledge that their cause is just than will their persecutors in their realization that they are doing great wrong.

The next thing that needs to be said about Dr Sakharov's exile is that it will bring something else, also at present largely lacking, to the West, which is an access of realism. Indeed, it is not wholly impossible (though I agree it is very unlikely) that the action of the Soviet authorities may even get

some sense into the heads of Lord Killanin, Lord Exeter and Sir Denis Follows.

Nothing could better exemplify the rot that has for so long been eating away the timbers of our Western house than the astonishment and pain displayed by President Carter at the invasion of Afghanistan; he really did believe, it seems, that although the Soviet Union is a cruel and oppressive society, it was one whose leaders talked the same political and moral language as we do, and his abrupt discovery that this belief was wholly without foundation, though it led to prompt, vigorous and potentially effective action on the President's part, revealed an alarming willingness to believe the best of men who have no best. Dr Sakharov has been telling the truth in Moscow for many unimaginably courageous years, and has been largely ignored in the pursuit of a wholly imaginary "détente". Now that there is even less excuse than before for such aspects of détente



Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife before his exile

as the Helsinki Agreement, perhaps his words from Gorky will be heeded rather more than his words from Moscow.

So much for us. Now for them. The moral and political bankruptcy, rottenness and despair that characterizes the Soviet Union and her leadership have not been so dramatically and brightly illuminated since the expulsion of Alexander Solzhenitsyn from the Soviet Union for exactly the same reason as that which motivated the exiling of Dr Sakharov. The Soviet system, now in its terminal stages, literally does not know how to cope with courage, honour and the truth, for it does not go on allowing these things to stain the grimy of Soviet society with the snow of their devotion to the truth.

Of course they will be relying on the moral torpor of the West to ensure not only that Dr Sakharov will soon cease to be interesting to us, but that the less well-known resisters for denying the reality of what store the Soviet Union's leaders will now be ignored even more

completely. The psychiatrist Dr Semyon Gluzman is still in a concentration camp for resisting the perversion of his profession for political ends, and Ida Nudel is in a remote area of the country for expressing a wish to leave the country altogether; and the thousands upon thousands who suffer persecution, imprisonment and death for their faith in freedom or in God, and who are less well-known even than those, will sink even more deeply into the night of Soviet tyranny. That is why Dr Sakharov was exiled; not only because he told the truth, but also because he provided a focus for the unsteady, weak and fluctuating light of freedom shone upon Soviet crimes from outside. The Soviet leaders count upon that Western light being even further dimmed, now, and I am sure they count correctly.

But before the lights go down, let us cling to the truth that this exile proclaims. More: let us resolve to proclaim it ourselves, loudly and often—so loudly and so often, indeed, that it will even get through the skulls of some of those who organize ourselves "I refuse the stone, thus". The Soviet leaders have refuted those claims by kicking from their midst a mighty boulder of truth and freedom because, and only because, truth and freedom cannot be permitted in their country, since if those qualities should breed and spread they would destroy the Soviet system altogether.

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generation of Soviet leaders consist of humane and decent men. The jails and concentration camps, the madhouses, the torture, the persecution of anyone who dares to oppose their rule in the name of freedom (or in the name of anything else, for that matter), including a decent standard of living—all these are widely condoned, ignored when they cannot be condoned, and lied about when they cannot be ignored. I have no doubt at all that within a year of Dr Sakharov's arrival in Gorky the BBC will once again be showing television programmes portraying the Soviet Union as a land of smiling workers, beautiful scenery and leaders anxious for peace and friendship; but even the BBC will have to allow such an interval first, if only out of prudence.

But in that interval, we can learn something, and perhaps a few of us can even learn it so thoroughly that we will not thereafter forget it. It is that Andrei Sakharov has been sent into exile in the great and enduring land that he was born in, and that has been stolen from its people by tyrants and criminals, because the Soviet leaders could think of nothing else they dared to do to stave that heroic month. They dared not put them on trial; they dared not imprison them without trial; and above all they dared not go on allowing these things to stain the grimy of Soviet society with the snow of their devotion to the truth.

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also provides a manpower reserve for demonstrations and disturbances, major incidents, large-scale searches or enquiries and road blocks.

The SPG can be called on for duty outside the Metropolitan District, if requested by a local chief constable. Such requests are received on average two or three times a year.

There are six SPG units under the control of a chief superintendent. Each unit has an inspector in charge, three sergeants and 25 constables (including at least one woman). The units are based strategically throughout the Metropolitan Police District. Each has three personnel carriers capable of seating 12 people and a car for an inspector.

All SPG vehicles are in radio contact with the information room at Scotland Yard, where emergency calls are dealt with. In addition, the SPG has an independent radio network which can be controlled anywhere in the Metropolitan area from headquarters.

All SPG officers are volunteers, drawn from police stations throughout the Metropolitan Police District, and will have completed the two year probationary period. More than 80 per cent of SPG officers are trained to use firearms. That is a much higher proportion than general in the uniform branch, the Yard says.

Only SPG officers wearing uniforms issued with guns and, as less than 25 per cent

missing persons. The SPG is also used in the investigation of disputes and festivals where serious public disorder is anticipated.

The Yard adds: "It may be remembered, however, that the central task of the SPG is to patrol on foot and in vehicles in areas where great crimes, burglaries and burglaries have reached a high level. Such is the success of the group in this role that each year up to 4,000 arrests (mainly for crime) are made by SPG men."

Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent  
The Police in Society. Proceedings of the Police Federation seminar on "the developing role of the police in a changing society" was published by the Police Federation, 15-17 Langley Road, Surbiton, Surrey at 65p net.

## How the Special Patrol Group was born

The TUC distinguishes, as reported yesterday, between community policing, of which it approves, and the Special Patrol Group, which it criticises, and has asked the Home Secretary, Mr Whitelaw, to disband. But 10 years ago a "cry for help", as it would be known in penal reform circles, from the Police Federation went largely unheard. The Federation is sometimes loosely described as "the policeman's trade union".

In June 1971 it organized a seminar about the very subject that is now causing concern, anticipating that, unless something was done, the precious relationship between the police and British public could be jeopardised. That relationship is born of a tradition of self-policing (and thus self-control) by people in Britain that goes back to Saxon times.

A Home Office civil servant, Mr Tom Critchley, who is also an outstanding historian of the police, gave a far-sighted warning at the federation seminar which was about "the developing role of the police in a changing society".

He said:—"For years in this country, we have enjoyed a uniquely mild form of policing. There are changes now taking place in the police system and there are changes taking place in society. The conjunction of these two is in danger of threatening the mildness of the system and indeed the whole ethos of policing. I think they are threatening in a way that could lead to something not

very far short of a breakdown in our traditional system, unless we recognize the nature of the system and adjust our police (and less hopefully our society)".

The police have sought to adjust. Police chiefs first in Scotland, and then in England, have introduced community policing and been criticised, wrongly, for speaking up about the need for it. A quiet pioneer in Scotland was Sir David McNeice, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, formerly Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police.

But the police also have to respond to events. Unless they mistakenly become political, they cannot influence them very much. Society has become

more violent than even Mr Critchley tried to predict. The point is not that the police are perfect or that on occasions criticism is not deserved. But criticism is misplaced if it fails to distinguish between symptoms and causes.

The Special Patrol Group came into being, according to the police, because of events and partly because of a shortage of manpower to deal with them. It was formed in 1965 as a mobile reserve available to assist divisional police in London's Metropolitan Police area where, and whenever, required.

Scotland Yard says its primary function is to provide extra police in areas where crime is rife. The group

also provides a manpower reserve for demonstrations and disturbances, major incidents, large-scale searches or enquiries and road blocks.

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Only SPG officers wearing uniforms issued with guns and, as less than 25 per cent

of the group are in uniform in normal circumstances, it follows that most of those should be authorized to use firearms.

SPG officers receive the same training (including firearms training) as all other members of the uniform branch. "But group officers are well used to working together as a team and are in general mature, experienced policemen", the Yard says.

Incidents at which the group has assisted include air disasters, major flooding, sieges involving armed terrorists or criminals and high risk escorts, as well as demonstrations and disturbances.

Its expertise is often used during protracted searches for bodies, murder weapons or

## IRISH ARTS DIARY

### A show of Irish confidence

When the festival *A Sense of Ireland* is launched in London next week, it will present the greatest effort ever made by Ireland to demonstrate its culture to another country. All sorts of motives are involved, but it is primarily an attempt to bring home to the British that Irish arts are flourishing—as part of a society which has developed in ways imperceptibly understood in Britain.

It is an independent project, but its importance to the Irish government is such that the Department of Foreign Affairs has given grants of £190,000, which is more than double its spending on all cultural promotion last year. Nevertheless Northern Ireland is fully involved, both officially and artistically.

Judging from what I have seen in Dublin, the enthusiasm in the Irish arts world is

tremendous, and the standard of performances and exhibits is high; but doubts remain as to whether the festival will make the impact hoped for by many of the organizers.

Despite the multitude of events, most Londoners, even those attending artistic events over the next six weeks, will have little or no contact with anything to do with Ireland. The scale of arts and entertainment in London is just so large that no such festival can blanket every area.

But even if *A Sense of Ireland* has little impact on British attitudes, there will still be gains. Colm O'Brien, director of the Irish Arts Council, said the biggest achievement would simply be the staging of such a cultural exposition. "It will be a reward of self-confidence."

### A Life for London

Cyril Cusack, who opens at the Old Vic next week in the Abbey Theatre production of

Hugh Leonard's play *A Life*, seems unconcerned at missing a chance to play the same role on Broadway.

Mr Leonard's previous play *Da* was a Broadway success, although it attracted little interest in Britain, and an American impresario wanted to take *A Life* to New York in March. But Cyril Cusack is already committed to Hollywood.

Anyway, he said, "I would far rather see *A Life* favoured in London than see it open on Broadway."

While there are regrets in Dublin that Mr Leonard's plays have never been hits in London, this does not necessarily represent the old attitude that an Irish play must succeed in London before it can be accepted as truly worthwhile.

Joe Dowling, artistic director of the Abbey, said: "It's absolutely irrelevant if *A Life* succeeds in London. Obviously we hope it will be successful, but it is not important to us. What we are doing in Dublin is what matters."

### Irish fiddlers everywhere

In its concerts of traditional music, the festival presents probably the greatest gathering of Irish traditional musicians ever seen outside the country, but the importance of such music in Ireland is demonstrated by the way in which it permeates other areas of the festival, forming a part of literary and theatrical performances and exhibitions.

It is typical that the first full-length work by the Irish Ballet Company, *The Playboy of the Western World*, should be a folk ballet to music.

When it is presented at Sadler's Wells next month, the Chieftains will be playing. "It does not go without a band," said Paddy Moloney, the leader of the group.

One reason is that the music is slightly different each night. "The changes put a bit of a spark in it," he said. "The dancers respond to the changes, but you have to be careful—you can get carried away."

### Attacking the stereotypes

This is supposedly an arts diary, and *A Sense of Ireland* is supposedly an arts festival, but an important series of events looks at Irish society in general, describing the changes in the south and the way in which it differs from the stereotyped image of a poor, backward, rural community.

Opening at the ICA on February 7, the exhibition *No Country for Old Men* is really a sociological thesis, presented by three lecturers from Trinity College, Dublin. They analyse the importance of the south's economic success, its growing urbanization, and, especially, the fact that half the population is now aged under 25.

This should be more fun than it might sound: they present their ideas with the help of music, video and a 64 foot long wall of cartoons.

Also at the ICA a seminar series, *The Future of a Different Past*, offers a challenge

to many accepted views of Irish history. With an impressive roster of speakers, including politicians from north and south, it will also examine contemporary issues. The organizers expect the series to generate plenty of intellectual conflict; they hope it will not degenerate into a shouting match.

The whole festival, nearly 100 events in 45 venues, sprang from a suggestion by a young Irishman, Martin Armstrong, working as a temporary usher at the Institute of Contemporary Arts. At a staff meeting he suggested they held an Irish week; the idea was accepted and then it just grew and grew.

Not all the festival participants are Irish or Northern Irish: Nigel Rolfe, who has prepared the *West of West* exhibition, is

English, although he has lived in Dublin for some years.

He is best known for his performance art (he is representing Dublin at the Venice Biennale this autumn) and will be performing during the festival at the ICA, creating a work with his body in a bed of flour six inches deep.

Currently he is trying to decide whether to take naked in Ireland, Germany, and the United States, but is unsure what the ICA will think of the idea, particularly after the fuss in 1976 about obscenity in a performance there by Genesis P. Orridge.

His exhibition *West of West* is a different affair. It's a kind of artist's view of source material, with 350 photographs of the many ancient monuments which still exist in Ireland.

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Martin Huckerby





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## THE HOUSE AT ITS BEST

Britain is now widely regarded as a somewhat introverted country preoccupied with its domestic strifes and failures, and increasingly polarized in its politics. This makes it all the more encouraging that Monday night's debate on East-West relations in the Commons was mostly on a high level of awareness and responsibility and relatively free of party politics. A full reading of *Hansard* shows that a wide range of views emerged but were not divided by party allegiance. Nor were the divisions so wide as to be wholly unbridgeable, even within the Labour Party. Leaving aside a few frayed edges and stepping over a few cracks, British politicians showed themselves occupying a broader area of common ground than might have been expected in the face of such a serious crisis in foreign affairs, clearly open to different analysis. The tone of the debate was reasonably firm, despite some dissent on particular points.

Mrs Thatcher strongly and rightly emphasized the need to halt Soviet expansion but she did not advocate a complete break with past policies: "The business of East-West relations must go on. We have to live in the same world." Mr Callaghan broadly supported her diagnosis and her immediate response but looked further ahead to economic and political initiatives designed to get the world's economic and monetary systems working better and to reduce tensions in the third world: "We must be ready for discussions with the Soviet Union... about the prospect of reaching new understanding and constructing a new set of rules." The Soviet Union must understand that to seek to follow the path of détente in Europe, coupled with third world adventures and ideological struggle is no longer a realistic option if peace

is to be preserved. There is need for restraint by the super powers during social and economic change in the third world countries. There is need for the Soviet Union to join the North-South dialogue. There is a need for joint restraints in arms supplies to third world countries. There is a need to accept that dwindling energy resources will provide a growing source of tension." Both leaders present a firm opposition to Russian aggression while keeping open the possibility of better relations if Russian conduct changes.

Mr Heath parted company with the Government on the Olympics and on Mr Gromyko's visit, neither of which he wanted stopped, but his broad appeal for a re-thinking of western foreign policy towards a new and more credible strategy, and his emphasis on the needs of the third world, must have won a fair degree of consent from both sides of the House. Mr Enoch Powell launched off into more eccentric dissent with his argument that we should not have reacted at all but even he conveyed a reasonable warning against entering into commitments without the power to back them up.

It was on the left of the Labour Party that one might have expected the more serious body of dissent, and indeed there were some apologies for the Soviet Union. Mr Lamond said he did not believe that the Soviet Union wanted to expand. He depicted the invasion of Afghanistan as "essential" if the Amin regime was to be prevented from proceeding along the same lines as that of Pol Pot in Kampuchea. He also argued that the United States, Great Britain, China and Pakistan had been financing, training and arming rebels against the Government of Afghanistan—presumably the Amin government of which he took no poor a view.

His was, however, one of the few attempts to mount a defence of the Soviet Union. On the whole the British left, like that of most western countries, has few remaining illusions about the Soviet Union. This is a significant change. It remains, however, wracked by guilt for the sins of the west. As Mr Ernie Ross said, "It is the height of hypocrisy for Nato and the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom to cry out in protest against the violation of the territorial integrity of one state by another when history is littered with their illegitimate interventions in the affairs of nations in every part of the globe. Almost without exception the interventions have been to install by force reactionary and brutal regimes that have caused untold misery."

It is fair to be reminded that western powers do not have impeccable pasts though the left distort and exaggerate historic failings. Certainly the west must try to avoid returning to the days when it almost automatically gave excessive support to odious regimes for the sake of containing communism. As Mr Shore pointed out, corrupt, cruel and oppressive regimes are not reliable partners. Nevertheless, security considerations cannot always be reconciled with moral preferences. Moreover, to allow the western response to Soviet moves to be weakened by feelings of guilt is curiously pointless. In the balance of aggression it is Leninism which has been "who", and the West which has been "whom".

The real issue, and the one which fortunately dominated the debate, is what instruments are most effective to prevent further Soviet moves of this sort. The value of the debate was that it combined support for a firm response with an array of ideas looking beyond the immediate and necessary responses of the Government so far.

## Amending the law on abortion

From Mr John Corrie, MP for Ayrshire, North and Bute (Conservative)

Sir, I read with interest the sincere views of the Bishop of Durham (January 30) but it would appear that he may not have read the Abortion (Amendment) Bill as closely as he might have. It should be read in conjunction with the existing Act.

In fact the necessity for an abortion under the 1967 Act depends on two doctors certifying that in their opinion formed in good faith the patient satisfies the criteria. This will remain the case if the Bill is enacted.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN CORRIE,  
House of Commons,  
January 30.

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC, FBA

Sir, The Bill to amend the law of abortion will shortly come before the Commons on Report stage. If it is passed into law it will make the requirements for legal abortion more complicated and restrictive than they are now. In particular, the doctor, instead of considering whether the pregnancy would involve "risk of injury to... health", will have to decide whether it would involve risk of "serious" injury—with the knowledge that he may be convicted in the Crown Court if he cannot convince a jury of the genuineness of his professional judgment.

The effect is evidently intended to be that except in clear cases where serious injury is apprehended the doctor will refuse to operate. This rule is to be applied even to "menstrual extraction" within a month of pregnancy, which is a comparatively simple procedure and one that on a sensible view raises no ethical problems.

The proposal must be considered against the background of the Abortion Act, 1967. This Act gave the law a measure of liberality, but it confined legal abortions almost exclusively to medical grounds. The Act does not allow abortion because the woman has been raped, or is a schoolgirl under the age of consent (even if she is a girl of 12 made pregnant by her father, as has happened more than once). The Act does not allow the doctor to take account of the fact that the woman who wants an abortion has been convicted of baby battering or child neglect.

It does not recognize any social grounds as such: for example, the fact that the woman is overburdened and that her husband does not allow examinations on the ground that the child would be unwanted, the woman having used a method of contraception that failed on the particular occasion, nor even on the ground that the unwanted child would be a source of various reasons he unlikely to be adopted.

These problems were debated during the passage of the Abortion Act. Some were regarded sympathetically, but I have no doubt that a number of those who voted for the Act did so on the basis that some abortions not specifically provided for could be allowed by a broad interpretation of risk to health: indeed, the health ground was so worded as to allow social conditions to be taken indirectly (though not directly) into account. The compromise achieved under the 1967 Act may well be radically affected if the result of the proposed new measure is to confine medical abortions to strict medical grounds of a serious nature, for reasons of space I have not mentioned other objectionable features of the Bill, which taken as a whole runs counter to general opinion (including medical opinion) in this country; and it is greatly to be hoped that even at this late stage it will be totally rejected.

Yours faithfully,  
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,  
Merion Gate,  
Gazley Road,  
Cambridge.

## Economic decline

From Professor T. C. Barker

Sir, It is reassuring to see eminent economists acknowledging in your columns the relevance of economic history to the debate about our present economic troubles. It is only fair to add, however, that some recent economic history does not place such emphasis on "the limited technical competence and extreme conservatism of British industrial managers before 1914 as Professor Lord Kaldor does (January 28).

He commends, *inter alia*, Professor David Landes's very gloomy appraisal in Vol VI of the *Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, published in 1965. Professor Payne's summary of later, and much more favourable, opinion is, however, not mentioned by him. It will be found in Vol VII of the *Cambridge Economic History of Europe*, published in 1978.

In any case, a country without protective tariffs which, during the first decade of this century, imported only about one ninth the value of the manufactures that it exported was, surely, still performing very competently; but the First World War, which disrupted existing world trading arrangements, was not mentioned by him.

Yours faithfully,  
T. C. BARKER,  
London School of Economics,  
Houghton Street, WC2,  
January 29.

## The price of gas

From Mr D. Cole

Sir, The letter from Sir William MacEwan Younger (January 18) worries me a great deal more than the rise in price of gas.

We are told that the price needs to rise in order to conserve supplies. Why, then, is gas being both flared and exported? Is the Minister aware of this? And will he tell us what he is going to do about it? Sir, I am a middle class householder.

Yours faithfully,  
D. COLE,  
41 St John's Hill Grove, SW11,  
January 25.

## The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From Mr Vernon Bartlett

Sir, Very much good has come out of Russia's evil invasion of Afghanistan—condemnation by the United Nations, condemnation by the Muslim states, destruction of the Olympic Games, an astonishing recovery in the United States of the sense of international responsibility that should go with great material power.

May I suggest, however, that for two reasons the time has now come to control our righteous indignation. One reason is that the condemnation of Russia by the governments of the Third World has not necessarily obliterated their suspicions of the so-called Western Powers. The other reason is that we must never forget that détente is still our objective. And let me emphasize on détente should be dismissed as "appeasement". May I add that, as a journalist nearly half a century ago, I was banned from Fascist Italy, banned from Nazi Germany, and was one of *Praeda's* earliest "Fascist Beasts".

I am, Sir, Yours, etc.  
VERNON BARTLETT,  
Middle Barn,  
Rimington,  
Yeovil,  
Somerset,  
January 29.

From Mr Tom McKitterick

Sir, The Afghanistan crisis is now a month old. It is right to react sharply against a piece of aggression, but the tendency of the American and British responses comes discordantly from countries whose own record includes Suez, Vietnam and Cambodia, to say nothing of Chile, Guatemala and other places where governments have been ousted and deposed.

This myth grew largely from Lady Butler's popular and dramatic painting of Dr Brydon riding into the town of Jallalabad, alone and exhausted. She called it *The Remnant of an Army*. Whereas the doctor and his pony lived on for many years, and forever on canvas at The Tate Gallery, another survivor, an Indian merchant named Banass accomplished the same feat but died soon afterwards. No history book records his stamina—or even his name.

In fact another 32 British survived the massacre and intense cold, which accounted for a death toll of over 15,000. This little band of fortunate survivors had been seized as hostages by the Afghans during the retreat, and held captive for nine months until released to the British in September 1842. Their release was much feted at the time, and one of them, my ancestor George Mein, was praised by Peel in the House of Commons for his bravery.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MEIN,  
Lancaster House,  
Church Street, W4,  
January 17.

## Boycotting the Olympics

From Mr Martin H. Prescott

Sir, The letter from A. G. C. Brown in *The Times* today (January 29) evokes pleasant memories of a recent debate in the House of Commons on the suggestion that a clear distinction should be drawn between the Olympic Games proper and all the chauvinist propaganda and nationalist hysteria that have so far been attached to them during the past half century.

So far, as I can remember, the actual 1936 Olympic Games were conducted immaculately: no attempt was made to interfere with the incomparable Jesse Owens because of his colour, for instance. What was so appalling was the way in which Adolf Hitler succeeded in harnessing the Games to his chariot wheels. One remembers only too well the embarrassing spectacle of decent, non-political world athletes marching round the Munich Stadium and saluting the triumphant Führer. Some of them, I believe, even used the Nazi salute as a gesture of courtesy; but not the British team of course.

If the democracies had boycotted the 1936 Games, they would have been spared the experience; but on the other hand the world would have missed the marvellous running of Jesse Owens (and others) and that would have been a great loss. He would probably have remained relatively unknown outside America and not have become the inspiration to black athletes that he did.

The logic of this is that all realms, including the Americans, should take full part in the sporting events of the Games; but not in any of the propaganda exercises. In particular they should absent themselves from the opening ceremony.

If possible, medal winners should leave the rostrum as soon as they receive them; quietly and without clenched fists.

This, I believe, would bring home to the Russians the condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan by world opinion; whereas an American boycott could be explained away quite easily by the Soviet propaganda machine.

Paradoxically this political act would have the effect of divorcing the Olympic Games from politics.

Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN PRESCOTT,  
53 Pinehill Road,  
Crowthorne,  
Berkshire,  
January 29.

## Loss of Vatican approval

From the Reverend T. M. Conlan, SJ

Sir, May I join your marathon on the Küng episode?

Your half page spread on Küng's position and views (January 28) omits the main point, that it is not for his erratic opinion that the Vatican has taken action but for using his position as an official teacher of the Church to propagate them. "By the deprivation of the canonical commission," Professor Küng loses his licence to teach Catholic theology in the name of the Church and as lecturer recognised by the Church." (Statement of the German Catholic Bishops, December 18, 1979.) A similar situation would arise if our Ambassador to the Kremlin were to back the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan: his credentials would be promptly withdrawn. It has taken the Vatican 13 years to do this.

The "fate" (your correspondent's word) that has overtaken him is hardly tragic. He must now, I take it, use another lecture room at Tübingen and note his new place on the syllabus and timetable. He can still research, teach and publish, and his salary presumably remains the same. He is not to be burnt at the stake, a "fate" I twisted him with 16 years ago in the Vatican Council. But at least we now all know that his beliefs are not endorsed by the Church.

To draw a parallel with the Sakharov case, a parallel you un-

and the Strait of Hormus is not exclusively an American interest, but a world interest. The principal littoral state is Iran. The instability that has overtaken Iran and threatens other Middle Eastern countries derives not from pro-Russian sentiment but from anti-Great Power sentiment, stimulated by American support for Israel—as Lord Carrington was also told. The west must not overlap its hand. If the Middle East becomes a battleground, the first casualty will be the oil supplies.

3. That being so, would it not make sense to divert to real development and exploitation of new energy sources an adequate share of the effort and money now being spent, or to be spent, on a military build-up which could be disastrously counter-productive?

6. The west must not manoeuvre itself into a position it cannot get out of, nor must it force the Russians into a corner. A return to cold war is to nobody's advantage. Whether we like it or not, we have got to live with the Russians—and deal with them. For the nuclear umbrella under which we have all had our adventures in the past is not infinitely elastic.

Yours faithfully,  
T. E. M. McKITTERICK,  
142 Avelon,  
New Ash Green,  
Dartford,  
Kent,  
January 25.

From Mr John Mein

Sir, The writer of your Diplomatic Diary (January 16) falls into the popular, and topical, trap of believing that "only one man escaped in the end to tell the tale" of the British retreat from Kabul in 1842.

This myth grew largely from Lady Butler's popular and dramatic painting of Dr Brydon riding into the town of Jallalabad, alone and exhausted. She called it *The Remnant of an Army*. Whereas the doctor and his pony lived on for many years, and forever on canvas at The Tate Gallery, another survivor, an Indian merchant named Banass accomplished the same feat but died soon afterwards. No history book records his stamina—or even his name.

In fact another 32 British survived the massacre and intense cold, which accounted for a death toll of over 15,000. This little band of fortunate survivors had been seized as hostages by the Afghans during the retreat, and held captive for nine months until released to the British in September 1842. Their release was much feted at the time, and one of them, my ancestor George Mein, was praised by Peel in the House of Commons for his bravery.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MEIN,  
Lancaster House,  
Church Street, W4,  
January 17.

## Deaths in custody

From Dr Neil M. Maclean

Sir, I have been a police surgeon for 15 years and would like to support Mr Jardine (January 17) on his views of police maltreatment of prisoners and deaths of prisoners in custody.

As he says, the police follow detailed standing orders as regards to the care and custody of prisoners and if the latter request a doctor, or there is any doubt about their health, then the police surgeon is called.

It is thereafter his responsibility as to whether or not the prisoner is detained and reviewed at intervals, or referred to hospital. In the past three years in the area I cover, the number of "fit to be detained" cases has risen from 2.5 per cent to 15 per cent of an annual average total of 350 cases.

The doctor is now called if there is the slightest doubt about a prisoner's fitness to be detained. Whether or not this change of practice is due to criticism from the media is open to speculation.

With regard to Mr Jardine's point of maltreatment of prisoners, my feeling is of nothing but admiration for the way in which prisoners are treated. One has only to stand in the police office on a Friday or Saturday night after the pubs have closed and listen to and observe the crazed, almost animal behaviour of many of those arrested.

Despite extreme provocation I have never seen a police retaliation. Most of the prisoners are to put it mildly, under the influence of alcohol.

I have often felt that videos of some of these incidents would alter the views of those "too soft" on an excess of "liberalism" (leader, January 14).

Yours faithfully,  
NEIL M. MACLEAN,  
Holmfirth,  
Dunthorpe Road,  
Cledworth, Wetherby,  
Dunbartonshire,  
January 20.

## London's third airport

From Mr D. C. Wood

Sir, Putting aside the important point that the remarks of the Chairman of the Essex County Council (letter, January 24) concerning the impact of a major airport on a locality are relevant wherever the site may be, inland or coastal (something very easily ignored by perverted partisans), there is a point of historical accuracy which needs to be made.

Whatever the attitude of the Heath Government was in 1971, it had changed fundamentally by 1973. In the second half of the 1970s, the summer of 1973, this Government only obtained a majority in a crucial division by accepting an amendment moved by Robert Adley which ensured a rent and branch review of the whole Maplin project, including its environmental impact. The result of this review, the publication of which was awaited by the succeeding Wilson Government, the project was abandoned in June 1974, without serious disagreement.

Since 1974 that action has received bipartisan approval. Only in the hearts of the more obscurantist elements in the Essex County Council do the old Maplins remain, to the great cost and regret of the bulk of the county.

Yours sincerely,  
DERICK WOOD,  
Chairman,  
Defenders of Essex Association,  
The Chase,  
Peacham East End,  
Rochford,  
Essex,  
January 24.

Reviving Civil Defence

From Mrs Helen A. Batt

Sir, As one who for years lectured as a member of Civil Defence and WVS on the need for preparedness in the event of a nuclear attack, I was shocked when I learned of the naive winding-up of the Corps, as though Utopia had arrived.

As a member of the Hertfordshire County Civil Defence Committee for a number of years, I was then horrified at the amount of public money used in the erection of many buildings for "Civil Defence Training" which soon declined to being used as entertainment or other facilities.

Now that recent events have made Civil Defence training as a protective measure necessary, may one hope that this will be carried out in existing halls or buildings, even in private houses, so that unnecessary public funds are not used to saturation point.

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN A. BATT,  
The Old Vicarage,  
Thundridge,  
Ware,  
Hertfordshire,  
January 21.

## INCHING TOWARDS A EUROPEAN COMPROMISE

This week's meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Italian Prime Minister, has shown that there is still a long way to go to a solution of the crisis caused by Britain's unequal contributions to the budget of the European Community. But some progress has been made in the various talks that have been held since last year's Dublin summit, and the pattern of a possible solution has been worked out. This would involve agreement to step up Community expenditure in Britain in a number of specific areas, such as the coal-mines, road-building, urban renewal, the steel industry, ship-building and Northern Ireland.

Spending of this sort, which would have to be tailor-made to apply only to Britain, would help to offset the fact that Britain gets so little from the common agricultural policy, which takes up some 75 per cent of the Community's budget. Added to the offer made in Dublin of a modified financial mechanism governing Britain's contribution to the budget, which is estimated to be worth £350m, it would reduce the net contribution, expected to be over £1,000m this year.

How much might be forthcoming under an arrangement of this sort, and the terms on which it would be made, have still to be

negotiated. But there is clearly a feeling, reflected in the comments of Mrs Thatcher and Signor Cossiga yesterday, that in the aftermath of the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan the members of the Community have more important issues to face, and that this is one dispute which should be got out of the way as soon as possible. It now seems unlikely that the next summit meeting of the Community, at which the issue of Britain's contributions is to be discussed again, will be brought forward to next month. But there is every reason to press for a solution when the meeting is held, either at the end of March, as planned, or earlier in the month.

Since the Dublin meeting, Mrs Thatcher has modified the manner in which she has presented the British case. She has laid less emphasis on the need for a "broad balance" between what this country puts into the Community budget and what it gets out, and she has talked of reaching a "genuine compromise". The tactical change was obviously right. The other countries had to be persuaded that Britain really intended to act as a constructive member of the Community, with the element of give-and-take that implies. But it does not conceal the fact that Britain has a genuine grievance, which is primarily the result of the lop-sided nature of the Community budget, dominated by agriculture.

The point was recognized yesterday by Signor Cossiga when he spoke of the distortions caused by Community policies, and the need to eliminate them if other countries were not to have similar difficulties at some time in the future. Italy, in fact, has long felt that it did not receive all it should from Community policies, though it does not suffer in the same way as Britain, being a net gainer. What needs to be accepted is that, though Britain may have shortcomings of its own, it is suffering as a direct result of Community policies, and that Community policies, in need to put things right. It is clear that moves to reform the common agricultural policy, wasteful as it is, cannot be completed in a short period of time. But spending on the various areas proposed by Britain can be seen, not just as a way of righting the injustice of the present system, but as fully compatible with Community policies in a number of different sectors. A solution of the British crisis will not be an easy matter for the Community, but it is necessary so that attention can then be turned to the other issues confronting Europe.

alone and not with the participation of the Seoul government.

From the exchanges thus far it may be deduced that both sides have some hope of the other being more tolerant than before. In the north Mr Kim Il Sung is not quite the dynamic figure that he was when the contact between the two sides was first proposed early in the seventies. His proposals then seemed almost to envisage that he would be able to preside in his lifetime over the reunited country. Moreover he has seen the economy of the south race past his own in productivity and world trade. He can hardly stand with the old confidence on his political position.

There should also be more flexibility in the south than there was under President Park's rigid anti-communism. But not the least grounds for hope of progress must be the pressure on each government from its powerful friends. Certainly the Americans and the Chinese, and it may safely be assumed, the Russians would be happier if a meaningful dialogue could be set going so that the always dangerous tension at the 38th Parallel could be defused. When the north-south dialogue was first proposed no such great power unanimity existed.

tory to the black nations of the world.

His commanding officer apparently agreed and decreed that the offending phrase be banished from all weather forecasts circulated within his jurisdiction! Yours faithfully,  
W. T. McLEOD,  
Managing Editor,  
English Editions,  
William Collins Publishers,  
Westerhill Road,  
Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.

## DÉTENTE ON THE 38th PARALLEL

With a new start in South Korea following President Park's assassination last October, it was to be expected that fresh approaches between north and south might be made. Had not President Carter urged some move on President Park when he visited him in Seoul in July last year? And given the frank talk on the subject that must have passed between the Americans and the Chinese, would the Chinese not be telling their friends in Pyongyang that now would be a good time to test the ground; the seeds of cooperation might sprout. At all events, both sides have had reason to make a move or to respond to one from the other side.

In his inaugural speech in Seoul as acting President in December, Mr Choi Kyu Hah observed that the resumption of contacts between north and south was an urgent matter. A year before President Park had raised it but without any response from the north. But this time President Choi's appeal drew a barrage from the communist side. It began with a batch of letters handed over through the neutral nations supervisory commission in Panmunjom. One was addressed to the Prime Minister in Seoul, ten more were to be passed on

to other prominent political figures in the southern capital. That was followed by a proposal for joint teams to enter the forthcoming Olympics. Even the hot line from Pyongyang to Seoul was unexpectedly brought into use with an official sweetly urging a meeting soon where nothing had been heard on the line but the "testing, testing" of the technicians. Now a meeting has been fixed at official level in Panmunjom next Wednesday.

If anything is to come of the meeting neither side can afford to be as rigid as it has been in the past when the talks broke down five years ago. At that time the north was insisting upon some kind of temporary federal structure being erected under which the rest of the building could be slowly built by agreement. This was to preempt the goal beached: the south would have none of it. In their view it would be better to start at practical and humanitarian levels, enabling divided families to make contact, restarting postal services and the like. Another stumbling block was the north's insistence that its demand for the withdrawal of American troops from the south should be discussed with the Americans

## Sticks and stones

From Mr W. T. McLeod

Sir, I was delighted to see in the columns of today's *Times* (January 29) Bernard Levin's vigorous defence of sanity in the treatment of derogatory terms in dictionaries of the English language. It is indeed alarming to contemplate the prospect opened up by his question: if we banish any recognition of the fact that the word "Jew" can be, and also sometimes is, used in an

offensive manner, where do we stop, short of "nigger" and "kike" and "nanny" and "kney" and "yankee"?

The exuberance is evident, and is perhaps apply symbolized in the attitude of the American Negro air force sergeant stationed at a base in England who objected to the phrase "black ice" in weather forecasts on the grounds that to use "black" in this way to describe something unpleasant was derogatory.

Yours faithfully,  
W. T. McLEOD,  
Managing Editor,  
English Editions,  
William Collins Publishers,  
Westerhill Road,  
Bishopbriggs, Glasgow.







# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

### Mr Carter stresses need for stable dollar and action to counter oil price burden

From Frank Vogl  
US Economic Correspondent  
Washington, Jan 30

President Carter today left no doubt that he attaches high priority to maintaining a stable dollar and strengthening international cooperation on economic policy.

The President stressed in his annual economic message to Congress that "as a nation we must recognize the importance of a stable dollar, not just to the United States but to the world economy as a whole, and accept our responsibility to pursue policies that contribute to this stability."

Today's presidential statement should lay to rest, at least for the present, allegations that the White House takes a "soft" line on the dollar and its international economic responsibilities.

The President squarely blames the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) for many of today's economic problems and for making the 1970s "a decade of economic turmoil... a decade of economic disaster."

He said he was ready to reduce his new 1980 oil import limit of 8.2 million barrels per day if discussions in the International Energy Agency (IEA) "produce a fair and equitable agreement that requires still lower imports."

Opec's actions in 1979 would add \$200,000 to the oil import bill of non-Opec nations, interest rates in the United States in 1980 amounting to \$45,000.

The President emphasized that international cooperation was needed to prevent "a destructive round of trade protectionism" arising from the strains of paying Opec's bills.

Cooperation was also essential to protect financial markets from potential disruptions caused by the huge increase in oil payments.

Mr Carter said that the economic goals set in the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment and Balanced Growth Act of a 4 per cent unemployment rate and a 2 per cent inflation rate by 1983 were unrealistic.

This is a courageous assertion in an election year, especially as the President suggested that the unemployment goal will not be met before 1985 and the inflation target will not be reached before 1988.

He said that in developing domestic policy in the 1980s stress must be placed on protecting the nation from foreign inflationary upheavals that could be created by Opec. He also underlined the need for policies leading to large-scale domestic energy conservation and production.

Major efforts must be made to defeat inflation by increasing productivity, the President added. Technological research and development would be enhanced by higher government spending.

Mr Carter said he supported moves to reduce the corporate tax burden in coming years. "Our nation in the coming decade will have to increase the share of its resources devoted to capital investment."

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Mr Carter said he supported moves to reduce the corporate tax burden in coming years. "Our nation in the coming decade will have to increase the share of its resources devoted to capital investment."



Dr Charles Schultz, chairman of the White House council of economic advisers, which is forecasting a mild recession in the United States this year—page 18.

But at the end of a message full of bleak forecasts and candid assessments of present and potential difficulties facing the United States, the President said he believed "the 1980s can be a decade of lessened inflation and healthy growth."

By Nicholas Hirst  
Energy Correspondent

An American-designed pressurized water reactor (PWR) nuclear power station would involve imports of \$42m, Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, told the newly formed Select Committee on Energy in a written memorandum yesterday.

That would be the cost for the first order but for subsequent orders imports would gradually fall to around \$10m, yet evidence to the first session of the committee Mr Howell explained that it was intended to order the American design after 25 years of solely British-designed orders to establish the option on the

reactor which was most widely used throughout the world.

The PWR would first have to pass safety tests and the project go before a public inquiry. It would be licensed from Westinghouse, the American power group.

Mr Howell said that the Government's intended programme of ordering new nuclear stations over the 10 years starting in 1982, when construction on the first PWR was expected to start, was based on a conservative estimate of electricity demand growth of less than 1 per cent a year in 1985 and not much more thereafter.

That was lower than projections made by the Department

of Energy of between 1.7 per cent and 2.3 per cent and the growth in electricity demand over the last four years which had equalled 1.9 per cent.

Further stations could be ordered if demand proved sufficient, the minister said.

In an opening statement he reiterated that safety was the Government's prime consideration. It wanted to have time for discussion but a balance had to be kept between the time allowed for discussion and making decisions.

"The Government must ensure that we have enough energy in the future to heat our homes and power industry."

Nuclear power was being chosen both to supply a balance

of different energy types and to give the country the cheapest supplies available.

Electricity generated by nuclear power was expected to be cheaper than any fossil fuel, whether it came from the British-designed advanced gas cooled reactor (AGR) or a PWR.

Storage of waste was not a problem, Mr Howell said, but studies were being made into the possibility of vitrifying highly radioactive substances.

Questioned on whether, after years of decline, the British nuclear industry was capable of building the programme Mr Howell said he believed the industry could be strengthened to achieve the task in time.

### Machine tools industry suffers deficit as imports soar

By Edward Townsend

Britain's machine tool industry suffered a deficit on its overseas trade last year for the first time since 1967 but the Machine Tool Trades Association says it will continue to back two-way trade "provided it is fair."

Latest official figures show that exports of machine tools for the first nine months of 1979 were £164.2m, a rise of less than two per cent on the same period a year earlier. Imports, however, surged ahead by 44 per cent to £202.7m.

Mr John Halbert, the MTTA president, said in the association's annual report published yesterday that a deficit had occurred largely because of imports from traditional sources such as West Germany, the United States and Switzerland and reflects to only a minor extent a sharp rise in imports being launched from Japan and other Asian sources.

While not advocating a change in trade policy, Mr Halbert added: "One sometimes wonders if some of the late success of our considerable export trade is attributable to unnatural but subtle impediments placed in our path in those countries."

He said that the association, which represents both importers and domestic manufacturers, would "continue to follow vigorously in defence of fair trade if provided with appropriate evidence."

A detailed study of imports by the MTTA shows that the increase has been largely



Mr John Halbert: deficit caused largely by imports from West Germany, the United States and Switzerland.

because of purchases by the motor industry. These include transfer lines from the United States and Germany and presses and gear cutting machines also from Germany.

The great majority of the recent increase in imports can therefore be ascribed to specific motor industry projects.

West Germany is by far the leading source of imports, followed by Switzerland and the United States. Japan has now moved into fifth place after its aggressive sales in the United Kingdom of numerical control lathes.

Mr Howard Barrett, the MTTA director-general, said there could be no doubt of the contribution to be made by importer members to the competitive power of the United Kingdom mechanical engineering sector, "but adverse trade balances do not provide the means of acquiring those imports they serve only to focus attention more sharply on the dogma of import controls."

The MTTA report, which comes a day after the announcement by Alfred Herbert of new capacity cuts and job losses and its declaration to concentrate on new technology, says that numerical control machines are the only growth sector in the United Kingdom market.

Estimated sales by United Kingdom manufacturers last year are £600m of which 11.6 per cent (£70m) were NC machines. This proportion has risen steadily since the six per cent share of 1972.

Mr Halbert, speaking at the MTTA annual meeting, said: "Prosperity in the 1980s will depend on investment and acceptance of new technology and fuller employment will not stem from artificial protection of jobs but from the development of the economy."

Fixed assets like machine tools needed constant up-dating if industry was to capitalize on the advantages of the latest and most advanced technology and compete in international markets.

### Birmingham plan to win more jobs

By Clifford Webb

In a move which is already attracting the attention of other big cities, seven Midlands-based companies and four clearing banks have agreed jointly to finance and staff an office in Birmingham to encourage new business and more jobs in the city.

The participants in the project, the Midlands Venture, include two of the largest groups in Britain—GKN and Lucas. The others are Bryant Construction, the Birmingham Post and Mail, Cadbury, Decca, Robert Douglas and the Midlands Lloyds, Barclays and National Westminster banks.

They are each putting up at least £1,000 and at most £3,000, a year for the next two years. More companies are expected to join after Birmingham Venture opens its doors next week.

The city's Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been mainly responsible for bringing the parties together. It is also providing officers at its headquarters and has detached a senior official to run the project.

Birmingham Venture is mainly intended to help local firms expand or cope with problems beyond their immediate capabilities.

### £30m loan agreed for Crown Agents

By Barons Phillips

The Crown Agents, whose dabbles in property and secondary banking during the early Seventies resulted in total losses of around £140m, has been given a government loan of £30m. This follows the organization's incorporation on January 1 this year in line with the Crown Agents Act, 1979.

Under section 17 of the Act, the Crown Agents assumed a commencing capital debt of £30m and any "profit" made will be paid into the Consolidated Fund when audited figures are completed.

At the beginning of the Seventies, the Crown Agents became heavily involved in property and secondary banking. In the Fay Committee inquiry, it emerged that some of the Crown Agents had undertaken property deals with Mr William Stier, who went later bankrupt for more than £100m.

After publication of the Fay Report, the Government felt it necessary to bring the Crown Agents under much stricter statutory controls. Its incorporation also means that its members are now subject to the provisions of the Top Salaries Review Board, which will have the effect of substantially raising the pay of its members.

In answer to a question from

Mr Graham Bright, Conservative MP for Luton, East, Mr Neil Marten, Lord Privy Seal, said that the interest rate of the loan would be 20 per cent of the rate determined by the Treasury under the 1968 National Loans Act.

It was also to be the first year of the loan. Mr Marten said in his written reply that the level of interest payments for later years will be set this year. He is also to consider the appropriate annual targets for the Crown Agents as set out in section 13 of the Act.

These stricter financial measures are part of the Government's move to bring the Crown Agents under tighter control.

The new body, to be chaired by senior Crown Agent Mr Sidney Eburne, has three members, Mr Kenneth Johnson, Sir Gordon Mackay and Mr Alan Frost. The present five part-time members receive £1,500 a year, the deputy chairman just under £3,000 and the two full-time officials, Mr Eburne and Mr Frost, around £25,000 and £20,000 respectively.

It was felt that the Crown Agents' low salaries made its members susceptible to inducements when dealing with highly paid businessmen. Indeed much was made during the Fay inquiry of the gifts some staff received from Mr Stier.

Under the deal, which must be approved by the Council of Ministers, the Crown Agents will receive a quota of 50,000 tonnes of cotton yarn imports from Greece. Earlier, talks had been deadlocked, with Commission officials offering a quota of 50,000 tonnes and the Greek authorities seeking 58,000 tonnes.

It is understood the ceiling for Britain will be 2,800 tonnes. Although only 400 tonnes up on last year's quota, the concession is gained by Greece will displace British textile producers contending with a slump in the domestic market. Imports account for about a third of present consumption and their share is increasing.

### Chancellor reaffirms no early cut in MLR

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent

A further warning that interest rates will not necessarily be reduced in the near future came from Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday.

The Chancellor, who was speaking to the Foreign Press Association, said that there could be no precision about the trend in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate (MLR) and that the rate would only be lowered as the money supply grew.

Financial markets have already abandoned the hopes they held earlier this month that MLR might be cut some time in February. The general view now is that the Chancellor will hold back the prospect of lower interest rates as one of the few "sweeteners" he will have to throw into what is likely to be a very tight Budget.

Whether the Chancellor will be in a position to announce a cut in MLR either in the Budget or shortly afterwards will largely depend on what the money supply figures, particularly the bank lending figures, show between now and mid-March.

Even if the figures look encouraging there are those who believe that Sir Geoffrey might wait until the end of the present monetary year (April 16) before considering a reduction in MLR.

Although a cut in MLR and bank base rates would obviously relieve some of the pressures on industry, the Government wants to risk a premature reduction in interest rates that might lead to the need to push rates back up again later in the spring.

Nevertheless, the Chancellor said yesterday that the Government did not want to encourage the view that there were particular problems with the question of British creditworthiness in the European Monetary System, namely sterling's role as a petrocurrency and the high level of domestic inflation in Britain.

### Ambitious W German economic forecast

From Peter Norman  
Bonn, Jan 30

The West German government is hoping that the country's gross national product will increase by "a good 2.5 per cent" in real terms this year after advancing by 4.4 per cent in 1979.

The cabinet in Bonn today approved the final version of the government's economic policy for 1980, which also projects a 3.5 per cent, an unemployment rate of between 3.5 and 4 per cent and a current account balance of DM 20,000m.

Presenting the report to the press, Herr Otto Graf Lambsdorff, economics minister, said the government's growth and inflation targets were ambitious but not exaggerated.

However, he emphasized that the figures in this year's report were more than usually subject to risky assumptions about the outcome of the last Opec meeting in Caracas and in view of the crises in Iran and Afghanistan.

Herr Graf Lambsdorff said the report had been made on the assumption that West Germany would have sufficient supplies of oil throughout 1980 and that oil prices would not change greatly. If prices rose, the country's oil bill is still expected to increase by around DM20,000m, to DM65,000m this year.

Despite the slowdown in growth anticipated for 1980 Herr Graf Lambsdorff made it clear the government has no intention of introducing new measures to stimulate the economy. According to the report it still intends to propose tax cuts totalling DM70,000m, to take effect in 1981 and 1982.

One of the key assumptions underlying the report is that unions and employers will again agree reasonable wage increases in the current round

of collective bargaining. To a large extent the government has based its growth and inflation targets on the expectation that individual wages and salaries will increase on average by around 6.5 per cent.

As part of Bonn's plans to cut back demand for imported oil, the Cabinet today agreed to give a further impetus to programmes for obtaining synthetic gas and oil from coal.

The government has also decided to provide DM70m to finance feasibility studies of 14 large scale coal refining plants. The 14 projects would, when completed, process 12 million tonnes of hard coal and 10 million tonnes of lignite annually to produce DM70m worth of synthetic gas.

The government has also decided to provide DM70m to finance feasibility studies of 14 large scale coal refining plants. The 14 projects would, when completed, process 12 million tonnes of hard coal and 10 million tonnes of lignite annually to produce DM70m worth of synthetic gas.

Trade surplus. West Germany's visible trade surplus fell sharply to DM22,500m last year from DM41,200m in 1978, the federal statistics office reported in Wiesbaden today.

After subtracting last year's DM3,500m deficit on services and invisible transactions, the provisional figures released by the office show that West Germany's balance of payments on current account ended 1979 with a deficit of around DM9,000m compared with a surplus of DM17,500m the previous year.

Imports of goods into West Germany jumped by 20 per cent to DM292,200m in 1979 largely because of the higher cost of oil.

Exports rose by 10 per cent in value to DM314,600m, representing a real increase of 7 per cent.

### Luxembourg company rules out English language programmes

### Alien TV invasion fears are allayed

The secret fear of Britain's broadcasters is that the country is about to be swamped by an invasion of alien television culture beamed from space satellites by audience-hungry European broadcasting companies.

They may relax a little this morning. The broadcasting company of the 999-square-mile Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has carried out intensive secret feasibility studies and has ruled out the possibility of an English television service.

Better known in England as Radio Luxembourg for its nightly pop broadcasts which have in the past featured a host of present BBC Radio One disc jockeys, Radio-Tele-Luxembourg was considering a diet of middle-of-the-road programmes and American soap operas, much as it currently serves in French to Belgium and north-east France.

Such transmissions have been occupying the minds of British broadcasters since the technical details of the broad-

casting satellite network planned for Europe became known last year.

One point rarely lost on British television people is that it could be possible for a European station to beam a service here unfiltered by the sort of restrictions on programming which both the BBC and ITV companies have to bear in mind. An undiluted diet of the most popular American import series of the time would undoubtedly attract both viewers and advertisers.

The problem facing Luxembourg is that their "footprint", the reception area from their allotted satellite space, does not cover enough of Britain to make English language broadcasting economic.

The BBC and the Independent Broadcasting Authority were yesterday minimising the importance of the station's decision, though the prospect of broadcasts from Europe swamping Britain worried Sir Harold Wilson, the former

Prime Minister, that he aired the issue in the Commons last month.

The European Broadcasting Union has, however, left RTL the chance to spread the appeal of its low-budget broad appeal French programmes.

It has been given the chance to beam from a satellite which would enable it to broadcast to parts of West Germany, a move which has brought a spate of protests from existing West German television companies.

"They seem to think we want to alter their culture," said Mr Nic Weber, an RTL official. "Our technical studies are progressing and by the end of this year we will take a decision."

RTL defends the idea of a German language channel in addition to its existing French channel on the grounds that both languages are widely spoken within the Grand Duchy.

"They are our official lan-

guages", said Mr Weber. If the company decides to go ahead, it could be broadcasting to West Germany in five to seven years.

But as far as Britain is concerned, the technological revolution may only benefit those who speak French.

The French government is considering using satellites for some of its broadcasting output. If it goes ahead, programmes could be received on a normal British set if owners provided themselves with a finely-tuned dish aerial on the roof and a converter to alter the satellite's microwave signal to one suitable for a British television set. The cost of the equipment would be between £100 and £200.

At the moment, there are no other plans for services from Europe to Britain—and certainly, with Luxembourg's withdrawal, no plans for an English language service.

David Hewson

### Raeburn Investment Trust Limited

Year ended 30th November	1979	1978
Value of net assets	£41,850,104	£44,727,687
Gross revenue	£3,391,676	£2,542,216
Per 25p Stock unit—		
Net asset value	157.5p	168.7p
Earnings	6.71p	4.02p
Dividends	6.35p	4.05p

The Chairman, Mr D. Meinertzhagen, comments:

The absence of dividend controls in the U.K. and a more generous policy towards dividends by U.S. companies produced a substantial increase in the company's gross revenue. Revenue available for ordinary stockholders rose from 4.42p to 6.71p while the 0.9p was due to special dividend payments, principally from Shell Transport and Unilever. The Board has decided to recommend that the full 0.9p should be passed on to stockholders by means of a special dividend of that amount. In addition the Board is recommending a final dividend of 4.0p.

During the year we purchased £322,289 of our Convertible Loan Stock. In addition, the abolition of foreign exchange controls and the high cost of borrowing led to a decision to repay all but a small proportion of our £10m foreign currency loan. The facility remains available for redrawing if required. Although our exposure to the dollar premium had been reduced ahead of its withdrawal, there was nevertheless a substantial reduction in sterling value of our portfolio which has led to the underperformance of our net asset value against the All-Share Index.

As to the future, we possess considerable flexibility in the form of undrawn dollar facilities and sterling liquidity which will enable us to follow whatever policy seems appropriate in a most uncertain world.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretaries, Lazard Brothers & Co. Limited, 21 Moorgate, London EC2P 2HT.

### PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Falls
At Lemi Israel 2p to 11p	BAT Ind 2p to 263p
BBG Ltd 4p to 38p	Can Ind Virella 1p to 161p
IBC Group 18p to 175p	Can Reg Stores 3p to 35p
Lane P. Grp 4p to 45p	Decca 15p to 380p
Marivale Cons 35c to 45c	Hammerston 'A' 10p to 525p

Martin-Black	2p to 23p
Philips Lamps	7p to 468p
Reed Int	8p to 199p
Tricentral	10p to 274p
Ultramar	10p to 442p

Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$ 29.75	Norway Kr 11.52
Austria S 27.75	Portugal Esc 118.00
Belgium Fr 67.75	South Africa Rd 2.00
Canada \$ 2.63	Spain Ptas 155.50
Denmark Kr 12.70	Sweden Kr 9.72
Finland Mk 8.58	Switzerland Fr 3.84
France Fr 9.46	USA \$ 2.51
Germany Dm 4.11	Yugoslavia Dnr 52.00
Greece Dr 96.50	
Hongkong \$ 11.20	
Ireland Pd 1.09	
Italy Lira 199.00	
Japan Yr 353.00	
Netherlands Gld 4.52	

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied yesterday.

Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

THE POUND





# Bigger oil price rise could trigger international slide

## Short-term 'recession' forecast for US

The White House council of economic advisers predicted yesterday that industrial countries will have a combined balance of payments deficit of \$50,000m (£22,222m) this year and the oil exporting countries will have a surplus of \$100,000m (£44,444m). The council said the surplus of the oil exporters "will remain very large for a number of years."

The council also predicted that the United States will have a mild recession this year; that the inflation rate will be below 10 per cent by the end of 1980, that interest rates will moderate and that the United States current account balance of payments, which might dip slightly into deficit, "should be stronger than that of other major industrial countries."

In its annual report the council stated that its annual assumption supporting its forecasts is that the oil exporting nations will raise selling prices, above the current rate of \$28 per barrel, by between 10 and 15 per cent this year and by at least another 10 per cent in 1981. Even greater increases could induce widespread international recession and even higher inflation, according to the council.

The council sees higher oil financing problems for importing nations leading to increased protectionist pressures and it warned that "the cumulative effects of large further rises in oil prices could increasingly threaten to overload the international financial system."

For 1980 the council predicted that tighter money policies in industrial countries and higher international borrowing demands will both enable banks to widen their spreads between their own borrowings and lending rates and also force more developing countries to borrow from the international monetary fund. The council believes the International Monetary Fund has sufficient resources for the time being to meet increased demands for its funds.

The council noted that current developments point clearly to a declining relative

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR 1980		
	Forecast	1979
Growth, fourth quarter to fourth quarter in %	0.8	-2 to -1
GNP	1.6	-3 to -1
Personal consumption	1.7	0 to -1
Non-residential fixed investment	-8.3	-11 to -12
Residential investment	1.1	3 to 3 1/2
Federal purchases	-0.4	-1 1/2 to -2
State and local purchases	9.0	8 1/2 to 9 1/2
GNP price deflator	8.9	9 1/2 to 10
Compensation per hour	-2.0	-1 to -2
Output per hour	5.9	7 1/2 to 7 3/4
Level, fourth quarter (seasonally adjusted)	1.6	1 1/2 to 1 3/4
Source: 1980 Annual Economic Report of the President of the US.		

role for the US dollar in the longer-term in the international monetary system. It said creation of an IMF substitution account would help in this regard, but complex problems must first be addressed before the account can be established and it is not clear when and whether these issues can be resolved.

The council sought in its report to leave the impression that central banks and large institutions with big dollar holdings will not diversify their assets on a large scale. It said official diversification on a large scale has not taken place and that it is inhibited by the shortage of alternative assets and by the danger that trying to sell large amounts of dollars will weaken the value of remaining dollar reserves.

Dr Charles Schultz, chairman of the council, claims that the underlying rate

of inflation within the United States is now around 8 to 9 per cent and that the sharp rise in oil and housing prices here late last year boosted the rate to over 13 per cent. He said the greatest domestic economic danger now is that the exceptional energy and housing price increases will spill over into general wages and prices and so boost the underlying inflation rate.

Dr Schultz said at a press conference that he expects interest rates to moderate as the economy slows down, but that he does not think the moderation will be quite as great as the decline in the inflation rate. He refused to make numerical interest rate forecasts and said he expects the average 1980 inflation rate to be 10.4 per cent. Dr Schultz noted that he expects the recession to take place in the next few months, with economic growth flat in the third quarter and recovery starting in the final quarter of this year. He said unemployment, currently at 5.9 per cent, may well peak at 7.5 per cent in the third quarter, hold around this level in the fourth quarter and slowly start declining next year.

The council asserted in its report that given the double-digit rate of price increases "fighting inflation must remain the top priority of economic policy" and that the challenge over the long run is to strengthen our defences against the effects of Opec prices and supply decisions and reduce the inflationary forces that accompany high employment through measures to increase productivity and to lower structural unemployment.

The council also noted the possibility of a recession resulting from reduced consumer spending, notably on cars and durable goods and to a moderate fall in real terms this year in business fixed capital spending. It also noted that housing starts falling to around 1,500,000 at an annual rate but moving back up to around two million by late 1981.

## Alfa deal with Nissan may not be approved

The Italian Government may refuse to approve a joint venture between state-owned Alfa Romeo SPA and Japan's Nissan group, because of fears that other European nations would retaliate against Italy for co-operating with the Japanese. Sir Siro Lombardini, an Italian minister, says.

He added the Government must be "very attentive" in deciding whether to approve the deal.

Sir Lombardini said Alfa must instead try to reach an agreement with Fiat SPA but Fiat has said repeatedly that it is not interested in such a deal.

## Statoll backs refinery

Statoll-Norol is planning a 5,000-crown (about £455m) investment in the Mongstad refinery, north of Bergen, for exploitation of North Sea oil and gas.

## IG Metall takes 6.8 pc

IG Metall, the West German trade union, has accepted a 6.8 per cent pay rise offer for 500 West Berlin business machines engineers, retroactive to January 1. This is the first acceptance of the current round of pay talks.

## Citroen production hark

Automobiles Citroen will halt production for 48 hours from February 7 to cut output in France by around 6,000. The move is designed to reduce stocks.

## Mitsui-Iran talks

Mr Eimei Yamashita, senior managing director of Mitsui and Co has left Tokyo for Iran. He will discuss resumption of work of the joint petrochemical project, costed at 730,000m yen (about £1,325m) which has been halted for 10 months.

## China finds mercury

China has found large deposits of mercury and antimony in Xuyang county, northwest China's Shaanxi province, the New China News Agency reports.

## Uganda imports

Uganda has set up a committee to issue import licences and allocate foreign exchange under new arrangements designed to smooth the flow of imports into the country.

## Gas for France

Belgium will supply the French gas board with 3,500 million cubic metres of Algerian gas over five years from October 1, 1982, due to a projected slowdown in the Belgian economy, it was announced in Paris.

## Japan's vehicle record

Japan exported a record 4.56 million assembled vehicles last year, up 6.8 per cent from 4.27 million in 1978.

## Saudi GDP up 11 pc

Saudi Arabia's Gross Domestic Product, measured in current prices, totalled 248,400m Riyals (about £32,727m) in 1978-79, an increase of 11 per cent over the previous year, according to Government statistics.

## Minister 'out of touch' on threat to exports

By Clifford Webb Midlands Industrial Correspondent

A Midlands industrialist yesterday told Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State at the Department of Trade, on a visit to Birmingham that he was "just not in touch with what is happening in our export market today."

The criticism came after Mr Parkinson had addressed 100 Midlands businessmen on Britain's trade problems and prospects.

Mr Toby Harrison, export sales manager of Bomford and Evershed, a Worcestershire agricultural machinery manufacturer, told him that he did not seem to realize Britain's export problems were being priced out of established markets by a strong pound and record interest rates at home.

Mr Harrison said that while he was aware inflation could not be tackled overnight the threat to export business was immediate. "We are talking about a matter of hours or days—not even months—to break this problem before we are priced out of our markets."

Export business lost in this way would only fuel inflation costs at home, he argued.

Mr Parkinson, who was clearly taken back by Mr Harrison's directness, suggested



that he was overestimating the Government's capacity to deal with the problem. Industry must get out of the habit of thinking that the Government was totally in control of the exchange rate.

At a time when all major international competitors were worried where the next barrel of oil would come from, Britain was becoming self-sufficient and that position was reflected in the exchange rate.

Mr Parkinson said it was up to individual companies to improve their efficiency and cut costs. Before the Conservatives came to power Britain was in danger of becoming a cost-plus society. The withdrawal symptoms would be severe but they had to be endured if the nation was to recover from years of living in a "fool's paradise."

## China's coins miss out on the world gold price bonanza

From Rodney Hobson Hongkong, Jan 30

While the value of gold coins has soared with the value of the metal, China has come a cropper with two commemorative issues. Peking's mistakes show they still have a lot to learn about life in the capitalist world.

The set of four gold coins issued in September to mark the 30th anniversary of the People's Republic lost value during the very period that gold was going through the roof.

The coins were originally priced at HK\$7,800 a set, with 30,000 sets issued in Hongkong and another 40,000 mainly in Europe and the United States. By the middle of this month, the dealers' buying price was HK\$7,300, only slightly more than the gold content of the coins, which weigh half an ounce each.

Usually gold coins sell at a premium, but China's first mistake was to overvalue the premium—the coins were priced at twice the value of their gold content at the time of issue. This brought Peking an immediate benefit, but those who were taken in by the snatching up of future profits.

The second mistake was in the inexperienced handling of the sales. The Chinese authorities thought they merely had to advertise in Chinatown newspapers wherever Chinese expatriates had settled. This policy was likely to fail in Hongkong, where Chinese form 98 per cent of the population, but not in America and Europe, where they are not in sufficient numbers to start a gold rush.

Moreover, the agents chosen, although highly reputable in their own fields, were not experienced in marketing gold coins. A Hongkong import-export firm had the franchise in the United States and a Hongkong finance company in Switzerland handled Europe.

Because of poor sales in the West, set of four gold coins flooded back to Hongkong, bringing down their secondary market value here. Dealers say there is nothing wrong with the coins, but as one pointed out: "They would have done well if there was only the official allocation of 30,000 sets here, but there are far more than that now."

Rather more ominous is the decision by China not to issue 1980 souvenir sets of gold and silver medals. Those who sent in cheques with their applications in November have been given refunds. The announcement was made in a little-noticed advertisement in the press here by the Hongkong agent, Gems and Arts, which cited as the reason a ban by Peking on the export of the medals.

The real reason is not hard to find, and it puts China's goodwill in doubt. Between the time the issue was announced at HK\$3,500 for the gold set and the announcement of the withdrawal of the offer, gold increased in value by 50 per cent. So China would have been selling the coins at less than the value of their gold content instead of at a premium.

There is nothing illegal in withdrawing the offer. Since payment has to be made in advance, coin dealers ensure that they are entitled to return the cheques if bullion price rises wipe out the profit margin by the time the manufacturer supplies the coins. This is what the Chinese authorities have done.

Dealers usually prefer to keep faith with their clients, however, even if that means selling at a loss. After all, they can cover the loss at least part of the loss by investing in gold futures, and they have the compensation of knowing that, if gold has appreciated considerably, so too have their inventories.

And if gold falls again the price of the coins could once more be above the value of the content. China would then have upset its clients for nothing.

## Frank Vogl in Washington

Frank Vogl, a German energy expert, is now in Washington. He agreed that in the short to medium term energy conservation is the best way of dealing with anticipated energy shortages. One can get some way by exhortation of the kind generated by the Department of Energy with its "Save It" campaign, but the kind of savings required over the next 40 years are not 5 per cent, but nearer 45 per cent.

I would like to suggest that the increased revenue which British Gas will attract as a result of the revised prices should be spent on energy conservation and not squandered along with North Sea oil money in a campaign to build industrial economy. It should be used to fund an exercise not altogether different from the gas conversion exercise of some 10 years ago, when all domestic appliances burning town gas were modified to burn natural gas using teams of contractors. After a few teething troubles this was a very successful technical programme.

A similar exercise aimed at making the housing stock of

## Using gas revenue to pay for energy saving

this country as energy efficient as possible could be mounted along the same lines. This would be a positive and significant use of revenue generated by a non-renewable source which we are very fortunate to have discovered. The technology of energy saving in domestic premises is well understood and teams of contractors could easily be trained to apply it.

Such a programme would presumably be acceptable to those groups opposed to nuclear power, tidal barrages and the like and would stand some chance of being achieved speedily and without the necessity for public inquiries or controversial planning decisions. The long-term cumulative benefit in energy saved would be substantial and possibly critical.

Yours faithfully, IAN FELLOWS, Professor of Energy Conversion, Department of Chemical Engineering, The University of Newcastle upon Tyne, Mersey Court, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, January 28.

## An incentive to buy British cars

From Mr M. C. Hyde

Sir, I read Mr Hopwood's letter (January 25) with increasing depression. No matter how one relates past growth patterns to the future, the outlook is bleak. There is one measure which government could take which would find favour with taxpayers who, after all, are providing both the working capital and the investment funds for the British car industry.

It would be to restrict income tax relief on motor cars to those manufactured in the United Kingdom. Such a move would help bolster the taxpayer's investment in car production and provide an incentive to buy British.

At the same time, foreign manufacturers could be told that if their exports to this country exceeded a certain percentage of models sold, they would have to consider establishing a United Kingdom manufacturing base.

Yours faithfully, M. C. HYDE, 6A West Grove, Greenwith, London SE10 8QT.

## Inflation accounting and comparing like with like

From Mr D. J. Fern

Sir, Your leading article on January 16 ("Gas is not dear enough") certainly draws the British Gas world in shades of grey for your quotation of the corporation's 1978/79 profit of £360.7m as fact is not historically the case.

The reason for this is that by their member for finance's admission, in previous correspondence, British Gas accounts have been prepared on a cost-plus basis and not on a cost-plus-supplementary depreciation on assets is being directly charged to the profit and loss account.

You are, therefore, already falling into the web being spun by the accountancy profession. Exposed! Drafts and bills, by not knowing the true profits which should be used for proper comparability with the private sector who are as yet not declaring CCA results other than by a note, and when the accountancy profession decide on a proper inflation package, accepted by all, including the Government, may one humbly suggest that two figures must be shown alongside each other, that is, true historical costs and the inflation-adjusted profit.

It will become impossible if we should not be able to compare like with like. We might just as well issue 24-inch rulers calling them 12-inch rulers adjusted for inflation in line with the retail price index.

Yours faithfully, D. J. FERN, 6 Cole Park Road, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 1HW.

## Status of engineers

From Professor N. Kurti

Sir, Far from feeling hard done by, Mr D. M. Kinson (January 25) should rejoice at the correspondence which has been reported appearing in the business section. When, in the March 17, 1967 issue of *The Times*, the list of the newly-elected fellows of the Royal Society appeared among the business men, the then President, Professor Blackett, was delighted: he realized the importance of business and commerce being made aware of the value and status of science and technology. After all one must create wealth before one can distribute it.

I believe that engineers have partly themselves to blame for not being held in higher esteem: they do not seem to be proud of their profession. When the colleges of advanced technology were given university status they also opted for that name, and there is now only one institution of university status for the education of professional engineers which indicates its specialized function in its name, the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

I hope that the Americans will not follow the British example, and that their great institutes of technology will not be known as, for example, the University of Cambridge, Mass. And, should the Imperial College of Science and Technology become independent of the University of London, let it not become the University of Kensington and Chelsea.

Yours faithfully, N. KURTI, Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ, January 27.

## Cost of book illustrations

From Mr Leslie Orrey

Sir, Like Mr David Holbrook (January 22) I too write books (on music); like him I find the material rewards minimal.

I am at the moment in the final stages of preparing one of the manuscripts for a book, which will probably be in the region of £10,000, but my net gain will be practically nothing—and no nonsense about Public Lending Rights will significantly modify that.

I accept this. But what I do find the last straw is the cost of illustrations. I cannot understand why museums and art galleries have to be so rapacious over their copyright "of the work of artists long since dead" (the Library being a honourable exception). Fees for reproduction vary from the reasonable to the outrageous (the fee, it should be noted, is in addition to the cost of the photography and is simply a licence to reproduce). The publisher line comes in graciously waiving a fee (though not the cost of the photography), the gallery merely demands a free copy of the work! With a contemplated thirty illustrations or so, at £10,000 an entry, the only reply is "you must be joking"; yet without illustrations the book suffers.

Yours faithfully, LESLIE ORREY, 16 Summerhill Road, Lansdown, Bath, Avon BA1 2UR, January 22.

## Lack of firm assurances on PO productivity

From Mr W. E. Fitzsimmons

Sir, You may be interested in this account of the result of my attempt to do the Post Office a good turn.

I sympathized with the Post Office during its long clerical strike, and sent them payments on account of my delayed bill. In fact, the total I paid them was more than I owed. I wondered at the time if my accounting system could cope with this. In fact, come the end of the strike a bill arrived. I wrote them a friendly letter at once, explaining that the bill had already been more than paid.

I did not expect a reply, and didn't get one. But some weeks later a red-printed letter arrived telling me sternly that my bill remained unpaid and that my telephone would be cut off unless I paid up. I at once wrote them another letter, less friendly than the first, explaining again that (because I had wanted to help them) I had paid in advance of the bill.

I expected a reply to that one, and sure enough, but there was silence for a week or so. I reflected perhaps difficulties elsewhere in getting letters delivered. Then a printed postcard arrived, telling me they had my letter, which would receive attention. There was then a further silence broken by a telephone call from a young lady who told my wife that it was all a mistake, and that they would be writing.

Write they did. A card printed note arrived telling me that despite their reminder my bill remained unpaid; they were now going to disconnect my telephone. If I had paid anything recently, I had better ring them up pretty smartly and tell them.

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I await their letter. I shall not be surprised if it arrives on the same day that someone else disconnects my telephone.

I am, Sir, Your Obedient Servant, W. E. FITZSIMMONS, 14 West Drive, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

NOTICE OF ISSUE

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

## Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company

(Incorporated in England on the 19th May, 1884, by the Rickmansworth Waterworks Act, 1884)

### OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £3,000,000

#### 9 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1985

(which will mature for redemption at par on 28th February, 1985)

#### Minimum Price of Issue—£98 per £100 Stock

yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £131 1/2 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended) in its application to the Company of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on this Stock will be at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum without deduction of tax. Under the imputation tax system, the present associated tax credit (37 1/2% of the distribution at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax) is equal to a rate of 3.67 1/2% per cent. per annum.

A deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for must accompany each Tender which must be received at the offices of National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78, Drapers Gardens, 12, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Rickmansworth Water Stock", not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 5th February, 1980, being the time of the opening of the subscription lists. If no allotment will be made. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Wednesday, 27th February, 1980.

STATUTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The Company was incorporated by special Act of Parliament in 1884 and, under that Act and subsequent Acts and Orders, now supplies on average about 38 million gallons of water a day within an area of 232 square miles in Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire and the Greater London area, with a population of 962,000.

The Company continues to supply water within the statutory area referred to above under an Agreement with the Thames Water Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Water Act 1973.

The proceeds of this issue will be applied to redeem the £2,000,000 10% Redeemable Preference Stock, 1980 at par on 1st March, 1980 and to finance capital expenditure on new mains, service reservoirs, and other works which are required to meet the demands of existing and new consumers. The Company's capital expenditure programme is a continuing one and further capital will be required in due course.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from—

Seymour, Pierce & Co., 10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 3EA.

National Westminster Bank Limited, Smiths Office, 1, Princes Street, London, EC2P 2AH.

National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 78, Drapers Gardens, 12, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD.

or from the Office of the Company, London Road, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 1LB.

Department of Employment Gazette

## Record number of days lost by strikes

By Caroline Adkinson

Strikes cost British industry a record 29,116 working days last year, more than three times as many as in 1978. The heavy toll came from remarkably few strikes. There were 2,045 stoppages which began in 1979, compared with 2,471 in the previous year. The total number of days lost was, however, the highest for any year since the General Strike of 1926.

Many of the lost-days were attributed to the large number of stoppages in protest at the Labour Government's 5 per cent pay policy. The engineering dispute in the late summer led to losses of 16 million working days, more than half the total for the year, but in contrast December was a quieter month as usual, with no major industrial disputes.

The steel strike, which began on January 2 will put up the total of days lost to 30 million. The figures were published yesterday in the Department of Employment Gazette for January 1980.

There was a slight easing last autumn in the number of companies forced to hold back output because of a shortage of labour. The latest quarterly Departmental survey of skill shortages was carried out in October, and the results were published yesterday. These show that there was little change in the overall unsatisfied demand for skilled labour. But this did not appear to constrain output and expansion quite as much as previously.

There were 10,891 vacancies notified to employment offices in October which were thought to be due to skill shortages, 5 per cent more than in July. Skill shortages in occupations were the heaviest still.

There was a slight drop in the ratio of unfilled vacancies to unemployed in 36 skilled engineering occupations. However, the ratio remained significantly higher than a year earlier. As unemployment has begun to rise sharply since the survey, the constraint of skill shortages is likely to ease further in coming months.

The number of unemployed receiving state benefit dropped slightly last November. Only 7 per cent of the unemployed received both supplementary allowance and unemployment benefit, 2 per cent fewer than October. About four fifths of the 1,331,000 registered jobless in November last year received supplementary allowance only, and 31 per cent received unemployment benefit alone.

An article on the long term unemployed in the Gazette confirms earlier findings that the longer a person has been without a job the less likely he is to find one.

The number of workers in industrial employment dropped by 14 per cent in the year to November 1979. This was in spite of a fall in the number of unemployed. There was a bigger drop of nearly 2 per cent in employees in manufacturing industry over the same period.

From the Chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council

Sir, You reported on January 25 the announcement by Mr Adam Butler, Minister of Industry, that the financial target for the postal business of the Post Office would remain unchanged at per cent return on turnover for the next three years.

I was pleased to see that in his announcement, the Minister stressed the importance the Government attaches to improving productivity and preventing any rise in real unit costs. However, that laudable aim is not one which customers can contemplate with any degree of assurance.

At this council said in its recent report on the postal price increases which take effect on February 4, the Post Office can achieve its financial target simply by increasing prices or reducing services, and the management has had considerable recourse to both these expedients in recent years. And in discussing their price increase proposals they were unable to give us any firm assurances about improvements in productivity or the quality of service.

We welcome the recent signs that the postal service is improving from the state to which it fell last summer and we look forward to seeing some hard evidence of improvements in productivity from the two-year plan on which the business is currently embarked. But customers are entitled to expect measurable increases in efficiency and reliability in return for the very large increases in postal prices imposed last August and again next month.

Government-set financial targets and their achievement are no comfort to users of the service unless they are accompanied by performance indicators which show that they are getting value for money.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MORGAN, Chairman, Post Office Users' National Council, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA, January 22.

From Mr W. E. Fitzsimmons

Sir, You may be interested in this account of the result of my attempt to do the Post Office a good turn.

I sympathized with the Post Office during its long clerical strike, and sent them payments on account of my delayed bill. In fact, the total I paid them was more than I owed. I wondered at the time if my accounting system could cope with this. In fact, come the end of the strike a bill arrived. I wrote them a friendly letter at once, explaining that the bill had already been more than paid.

I did not expect a reply, and didn't get one. But some weeks later a red-printed letter arrived telling me sternly that my bill remained unpaid and that my telephone would be cut off unless I paid up. I at once wrote them another letter, less friendly than the first, explaining again that (because I had wanted to help them) I had paid in advance of the bill.

I expected a reply to that one, and sure enough, but there was silence for a week or so. I reflected perhaps difficulties elsewhere in getting letters delivered. Then a printed postcard arrived, telling me they had my letter, which would receive attention. There was then a further silence broken by a telephone call from a young lady who told my wife that it was all a mistake, and that they would be writing.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Waiting for BAT's strategy to pay off

Results from BAT Industries for the 12 months to the end of September are disappointing. Of course the strength of sterling has done the figures no good. Operating profits, at £502m, are some £48m lower than they would have been on constant exchange rates. But even allowing for that the group's performance has been rather worse than most expectations.

The explanation seems to lie in the tobacco division, where a combination of low volume growth (particularly in the important United States and German markets), rising costs and price controls have left profits 10 per cent down at the operating level. Thanks largely to the acquisition of Appleton, profits of the paper division are 65 per cent ahead; and the retail side has produced a surprisingly good 42 per cent advance at the operating level, though the overall margin on sales is still pathetic at just over 2 per cent.

With this division benefiting from a good Christmas, and tobacco, paper, printing and packaging all holding their ground, operat-



Mr Peter Macadam, chairman of BAT Industries.

ing profits for the final three months of this 15-month operating period ought, if anything, to be better than those of the corresponding period.

However, the questions for BAT's shareholders now concern not the immediate future—though there is a handsome stream of income to look to in that period, with the group declaring a third interim dividend 18 per cent higher than the final last year, plus a special payment of 7p a share gross in respect of the extra three months—so much as the longer-term outlook, and in particular, how long it will be before the non-tobacco industries can supply the growth which tobacco patently cannot.

Over the past 12 months their contribution to operating profits has increased from 30 to 37 per cent; and though the growth in paper profits may slow this year, it looks as though the retailing division may at last start performing as it should. All the same, there is no reason to expect much excitement in the shares—down 8p to 263p yesterday, for an annualized yield of 9.4 per cent—in the foreseeable future.

Asda

### Support for the sector

Interim profits of £22.5m from Associated Dairies are at the top end of market expectations and should help stop the rot which has set into retail food shares since the year-end.

The acquisition of Allied Retailers means that Asda's latest figures are not strictly comparable with the stated previous total of £15.1m, but a divisional breakdown shows that growth has not faltered as a result of last year's expansionary moves.

Allied's profits have jumped 47 per cent to £4m on a turnover increase of 23 per cent to £52.5m, while the original Asda has boosted profits 31 per cent to £17.6m on a 22 per cent sales gain to £385m.

Here a third of a point improvement in margins gives further evidence of the profits consolidation which has followed the last industry price-war and perhaps illustrates why the major chains are not afraid of reopening promotional hostilities.

Full-year figures could be 30 per cent ahead at around £53m but the Asda's glamour status could face its greatest test. The cost of the group's major push in to

the south; the possible effect on cash flow if the Budget brings changes in stock relief provisions and prospects for consumer spending generally could all conspire in the market's view to put the brakes on growth. Certainly Asda's future expansion is not going to be quite as explosive without the benefit of stock relief but cash generation would still be such to make the possibility of a really savage price war between the majors most unlikely.

Up 2p to 178p yesterday the shares are selling on a likely p/e ratio of 13 and a yield of only 3.7 per cent, given the likelihood of a three times covered payment.

### Allied Textiles

### Riding the recession

By the look of it Allied Textiles has found a profitable and recession-proof niche at the specialized, up-market end of the textile business. Thus, profits were maintained last year at £3.2m and efficiency improved since sales are 11 per cent down at £30.6m following the loss of Iranian business. Most important though, as a result of the rationalization carried out over the past five years (which effectively saw Allied withdraw from bulk textiles areas) it has eliminated debt and ended up with cash of £3.8m at end September. Since Allied also has bank facilities of about £6m it is obviously in a position to make acquisitions. This is where the textiles recession could work to its advantage.

A policy which Allied has successfully used in the past (with Moxon in 1971 and with Scottish suitings group, Reid and Taylor) is to pick up promising subsidiaries of larger groups which run into trouble.

The prospect, then, is for further steady progress helped by the odd strategic acquisition along the way. That is more than most second-line textile groups can offer over the next couple of years, and there is plenty of support in a dividend yield of 11.6 per cent, after a 20 per cent increase in the payment, with the shares at 89p. One to stay with—on the record alone.

### Bonds

### Interest rate fears

The past few days have brought little encouragement from the international scene for those anticipating a drop in domestic interest rates around Budget time. Bond markets world-wide have come under the most intense pressure. Yesterday, after a short breather, dollar bonds were sliding again, and many have fallen by three or more points over the past week.

In the Deutschmark sector price falls have been nothing like so steep but two foreign bond issues last week had to have their coupons increased to get away successfully. The Bundesbank is persisting with its tight money policies and there are now few hopes that interest rates will ease back in Germany before the second half of the year.

In Switzerland, meanwhile, the bond markets have, if anything, suffered even worse than the dollar sector. Prime quality long-term foreign bonds are now yielding over 6.2 per cent, close to double the level of a year ago and one new issue which was recently priced at par was trading yesterday at 91.

One significant feature of this general deterioration is that while it has effectively driven the Eurodollar bond market underground it has not had any apparent impact upon the ability of the Dm or Swiss franc sectors to continue supplying funds to foreign borrowers.

Dollar issues so far this year have totalled only just over \$400m while the other two markets have both provided well over \$600m equivalent each. Counting the "Carter bond" issues, the German market volume totals almost \$1,800m to account for 35 per cent of all international issues. The dollar, by contrast, accounts for a mere 12.1 per cent, a far cry from the two-thirds market share it averaged in 1979 as a whole.

## Economic notebook

### Which definition of public spending?

The Government opened its last White Paper on public spending by saying that such spending lay "at the heart of Britain's present economic difficulties."

Over the last ten years many people have moved towards such a view. But the term "public spending" can be misleading. What do people mean when they call for a reduction in the government's spending?

Some people clearly mean a cut in the size of the government bureaucracy. Others are thinking of the control which the government has over the nation's resources and still others of whatever it is that leads the government to raise taxes or borrow.

Governments have made minor changes in the definition of spending which they use. But there are no major changes which would make sense both for practical reasons of planning and control and on economic grounds.

At present the £70,000m or so which is thought of as public spending includes all so-called transfer payments. These are payments made directly by the government (or in some cases local authorities) to individuals or companies who may spend the money as they will. They include most importantly pensions, unemployment benefits and other social security payments.

These payments have no impact on the government's claims on the real resources in the economy.

Those who are concerned with the share of British output which is in the public sector should exclude transfers from their calculations. They are quite different in their impact on the economy from direct government spending on goods and services.

If the government decides to build a hospital or employ more teachers it is making a direct claim on resources of labour and capital and determining what these should produce and how. When it pays a retired person to exclude transfers from their calculations. They are quite different in their impact on the economy from direct government spending on goods and services.

### Reasons

The present Government has given at least two different kinds of reasons for its desire to cut back public spending. In its November White Paper it talks about "limiting the resources devoted to public services". Both this and the idea of freeing resources for the private sector make sense if the spending being talked about is direct spending on goods and services.

On the other hand, however, justifies plans to limit its spending on the grounds that it wishes to cut public borrowing and bring down income taxes if possible. Simple arithmetic shows that to do so it must hold down its spending.

On this argument it does not matter what kind of spending is at stake. What matters is how easy it is to finance. This strand of thinking is most clearly influencing the Government now, in its deliberations over the next year and until 1983-84. The Prime Minister has given a broad hint that social security payments will not be spared the spending axe this time round.

Only three months ago the

Government followed the orthodox line on these transfer payments. It commented in its White Paper that social security spending would reflect the numbers who qualified for and claimed the benefits. These are in turn influenced by the course of the economy and demographic variations.

Now the Government is about to break the link between benefits, other than pensions, and prices. The real value of the payments will no longer be preserved but will be allowed to shrink to some extent with inflation. This could eventually save a great deal of money.

However, a decision to cut the incomes of those on social security is different from one to cut the goods and services provided by the public sector. Paradoxically it probably owes something to the special place of such payments in the structure of public spending. This has in earlier years helped to make them inviolate.

### Desperation

The Government's recent search for spending cuts has been hurried, to say the least. The plans for the programmes are hurriedly being put together. Cuts last summer after the Chancellor's first Budget, and in November for the White Paper, meant that there were not easy or obvious targets left.

Cuts in departmental and local authority spending programmes are hard to make partly because the programmes are the sum of many decisions. The plans for the programmes are determined over a period of time. Ideally, they should not be chopped and changed at short notice.

The decisions to increase spending usually represent an explicit commitment to provide more or better services, and devote more real resources to this.

On the contrary, social security transfer payments have increased over the years to some extent, and the government's decision to increase them is a clear statement of its policy.

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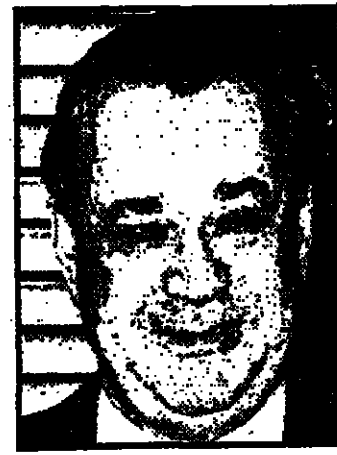
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## Confusion for western companies in Moscow



Nikolai Patolichev, Russian Minister for Foreign Trade: planning investments for next five years.

Moscow President Carter's ban on the export of high technology to the Russians and the passage of measures already announced recently by Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, have caused confusion for British and American companies trading with the Russians. The result may be to give the French and West Germans a long-term advantage in exporting to the Soviet Union.

The measures have also left Soviet officials wondering whether the deteriorating political atmosphere in the wake of the Afghanistan affair will put further barriers in the way of trade with leading western countries. At present, however, the Russians are doing their best to assure western business representatives in Moscow that as far as they are concerned, it is business as usual.

Many companies exporting to the Russians are not sure what equipment is defined as being "high technology" and what will be refused an export licence under the Carter ban.

The Russians in turn are waiting to see which areas of trade will be affected, and are hesitating in signing or discussing contracts without firm assurances that the goods will be delivered.

For companies specializing in computers, electronics and automatic equipment, the American ban is potentially disastrous. Representatives from such American firms as IBM and Sperry-Univac have already been summoned home from Moscow for urgent consultations, and their offices have virtually stopped doing business here.

In 1978 IBM sold the Russians 518m worth of equipment. There is a real fear that if the ban is continued indefinitely, the company would be forced out of the Soviet market.

British high technology companies are similarly affected, as almost all use American components. A company such as ICI, needs to get a re-export licence before it can sell any good which include American components. And President Carter has announced an indefinite delay on issuing these licences.

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Russians are particularly friendly and cooperative at the moment, anxious to make a clear distinction between the poor political relations they have with Britain and the development of trade relations.

Shortly before the Afghanistan intervention Britain again urged the Russians to take up their unused credits and increase imports. A senior delegation, headed by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, came to Moscow to discuss a range of economic fields in which Britain could compete favourably for contracts, including energy, oil exploration and agriculture. In the light of the subsequent American embargos all will be more vital now to the Soviet Union.

Anglo-Soviet trade, however, has not done well recently as far as Britain is concerned. Last year showed one of the largest imbalances ever, with the Russians exporting £409.9m worth more to Britain than they imported. British exports fell 1 per cent, while imports rose 20 per cent.

Following the American retaliatory measures, the Russians are stalling on negotiations with western companies. The Soviet Union was put in a difficult position in December when the American company Zarnco withdrew from a \$100m silicon steel plant which it was going to build jointly with the Japanese. The Russians will now have to find another contractor.

However, there are very many French and West German companies already waiting, some even with representatives over here in Moscow hotels, to see whether any deals that fall through as a result of the American embargos can be diverted their way.

Two years ago a similar situation arose after the trials of leading Soviet dissidents. President Carter then ordered the cancellation of computer sales and ordered for the licences from Sperry-Univac. When he eventually changed his mind and allowed the contract to go through it was too late for the American company: the French had already sold the Russians the computers, which has now been delivered.

Few large contracts are now being negotiated by the Russians with any foreign companies at present as the five-year plan is ending and the Russians have already spent their hard-currency investment allowances.

But within a year the Ministry of Foreign Trade, headed by the redoubtable Nikolai Patolichev, and other Soviet buying organizations will be planning their investments for the next five years.

Michael Binyon

## Shipping: less room now for optimism

In the space of less than a month dark clouds have appeared over the world's shipping markets, and the chinks of light which last year were beginning to pierce the gloom are receding once again.

The shipping markets, always volatile, have yet to register fully the impact of the distinctly chillier temperature between East and West which has resulted from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and President Carter's retaliatory embargo on American grain exports to the Soviet Union.

This action, on top of the unresolved political crisis in Iran, the oil price lagging by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in the wake of the embargo in Caracas and the general move into recession have sent the shipping companies scurrying in search of futurologists.

Add to that the high level of world oil stocks—estimated at the equivalent of 75 days' supply—built up in advance of the Caracas conference and the mild winter (so far) in the United States and Northern Europe and there is a less than optimistic air about forecasts for the rest of this year in the tanker market.

Mr Andrew Carpenter, of London shipping consultants H.P. Drewry, who has just completed a detailed assessment for the tanker market over the rest of 1980 said yesterday: "I do not see 1980 being as good a year for the tanker owners as last year and I think that we

could well see owners moving back their very large crude carriers into lay-up berths. The only bright spot at the moment is in the market for smaller tankers."

The outlook, then, looks gloomy and for the very large tankers the rates for single voyages on the spot market have come down from Worldscale 46 in December to about Worldscale 42. (These figures are based on the newly revised rate schedule.) The expectation is that the downward trend will continue.

At the present rate level the operators of large tankers are more than covering their operating and voyage costs, but if the rate falls below Worldscale 35 and the tankers are slow steaming (which a large number are) their operation becomes uneconomic. The conventional wisdom is that the market is likely to stabilize at about present levels for the first half of the year and possibly dip in the second half.

Laid up tanker tonnage at the end of last year amounted to some 16 million tons deadweight. That included a fair volume of tankers being used for oil storage but marked a substantial drop from the more than 30 million tons idle at the end of 1978.

Many of the hopes for better prospects, or at least a maintenance of the improved climate which developed last year, were pinned on the strength of the grain market. The embargo on exports to the USSR has shattered those hopes and has forced people to think again.

Before President Carter

announced his decision it was estimated that in the crop year so far the USSR had bought more than 18 million tonnes of grain and about 1 million tonnes of soyabean for shipment. But the course of 1980 is unaffected by the embargo because they are covered by a five-year grain agreement between the two countries.

But shipping experts estimate that about 17 million tonnes of American grain could be affected by the embargo. On that basis a large tonnage of chartered ships could come back on to the market and this, according to H.P. Drewry, "represents a real threat to freight rate stability."

There is another potential knock-on effect: a number of large combined carriers have been engaged in the grain trade; if they become free, owners will want to place them on the oil market, imposing a further depressant on the tanker sector.

The unknown element in the equation is the role which Argentina may play—and may already be playing—in making up the shortfall in grain deliveries from the United States with its own sales to the Soviet Union.

The United States has already appealed unsuccessfully to Argentina to halt shipments to the USSR. That politically-sensitive decision would bolster the dry cargo market and ensure that at least it was not thrown back into turmoil with the release of surplus shipping tonnage.

Peter Hill

## Business Diary: Inns are caught • Gold diggers of 1980

Gone are the days when business visitors arriving on sales trips in the Gulf states had to sleep two or more to a room.

According to hotelier Erwin Rieck, who was in London yesterday, hotels out there are now so short of guests that bulk customers such as airlines are being offered discounts of up to two-thirds.

Rieck, president of the European Division of Ramada Hotels, told Business Diary yesterday that a runaway building boom has taken the Gulf from hotel shortage to overcapacity in a year.

Ramada, the third biggest hotelier in the world after Hilton and Sheraton, has eight hotels in Gulf countries, among them Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

"We're throwing in breakfast now and improving facilities like entertainment," says Rieck, a 37-year-old German. He doesn't see much chance of tourism taking up the slack. In the United States, Ramada, which is based at Phoenix, Arizona, is getting out of high-way-based motels and turning to casinos—as well as to Europe.

Rieck, for example, is talking about two "flagship" hotel would like a "flagship" hotel here and is considering possibilities in Bristol, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Manchester.

Since both the Good Food Guide, edited by Christopher Driver, and the Good Hotel Guide, edited by Hilary Rubin-stein, are to be published this year, the two editors thought it would be wise to lunch together to discuss a joint press launch. The only difficulty is that they cannot agree where they should go.

The presidency of the Association of British Travel Agents is up for grabs as the formidable incumbent, Margaret Hook ends a third consecutive year's term of office in March.

Several hats are likely to be thrown into the ring but so far there is no outright favourite. One title might be that of Mrs Elma Richardson, who runs an agency in Tottenham, north London, and Norman Richardson, an agent and former mayor of Durham.

On the other hand, there could be challenges from Francis Higgins, assistant managing director of Thomson Travel, Eric Sutherland, deputy chief executive of Olympic Holidays, and Ken Franklin, holiday managing director of Horizon and chairman of the association's Tour Operators Council.

The new president will find Mrs Hook a hard act to follow. She has shown herself particularly adept at balancing the often conflicting views of the trade's two sectors—the shopkeepers and the salesmen—

Victor Ross, the chairman of Reader's Digest, thinks consumer protection can be carried too far.

His firm has just published an impressive tome of 736 pages 750,000 words and more than 100 charts and diagrams, called *You and Your Rights*. It costs £11.95 and is sent out on approval to people who respond to direct mail shots promoting it.

What alarms Ross is the number of people who ask for the book, keep it and do not pay for it. "We have very sophisticated systems of credit



Margaret Hook

and has done much to improve the industry's public standing. Only her reluctance to change Abta rules prevented her standing for a fourth term.

Mrs Hook, deputy chairman of the Edinburgh-based holiday company, Barr and Willis Arnold Trust, says: "It has helped having a woman as president because one always gets the benefit of the doubt. Of course, one doesn't take advantage of it."

control," he told Business Diary yesterday. "But 3 per cent of the books end up as bad debts in spite of everything we can do. Rampant consumerism has contributed to the idea that the consumer can make any small thing an excuse for not meeting his contractual obligations."

Also, there is worse news yet. *You and Your Rights*, a companion to *You and Your Rights*, a law, has proved especially popular among the criminal classes. One third of all the review copies dispatched failed to arrive at their intended destinations.

The ceasefire and the soaring gold price have set off a gold rush in Rhodesia. Dozens of prospectors, most of them one-man bands but including the Lonrho and the RTZs, are checking out the old gold workings that litter the countryside.

The Ministry of Mines has published a pamphlet listing the names and sites of more than 1,000 dormant mines. Rhodesia is one of the few countries in the world where independent prospectors can still operate with reasonable freedom. A prospecting licence can be obtained for less than £150.

"There has been very little prospecting during the past few years because the war made it difficult to get into the country side," Alan Marsh, president of the Rhodesian Chamber of Mines and consulting engineer for Lonrho told Business Diary. "However, I think we should see quite a bit of activity now."

Gold production figures have been secret for the past 14 years of sanctions, but Marsh reckons that total production last year was somewhere between 10 and 14 tons which would put Rhodesia in about seventh place in the world production league.

Although output has not increased much, the rise in the gold price means that gold is again the main foreign exchange earner among the 40 Rhodesian minerals.

Marsh estimates that gold sales were worth more than Rhodesian \$800 last year (over a quarter of the total value of mineral production) and should be well in excess of Rhodesian \$120m this year.

It was not a great day for literature when this week the Halifax Building Society proudly unveiled its glossy promotional film written by and starring Sir Huw Weldon. His Welsh wizardry with words did not fail him, but his memory did.

Caring for the ash woodwork used extensively in the Halifax headquarters building and reminding about the peculiar Englishness of building societies, he said, pages theologically, that it was Housman "of course" who said that "Oak, and Ash, and Thorn" were the greatest trees of Old England. Wrong, Sir Huw. That was Keats.

Never mind. Sir Huw had his chance later when a voice from the invited audience asked him what he forgot about Venice. Neither a correction nor a "leader be" in accepting the Halifax assignment. "Hamlet," corrected Sir Huw.

The one correct quotation of the day came from the Halifax chairman, Sir Raymond Potter, reflecting in the origins of building societies in either pubs or chapels, he did not misquote Housman when with some satisfaction he referred to the Halifax's own beginnings in the Old Cock Inn.

"Malt does more than Milton can."

To justify God's way to man. Politics can be a thankless business. Mrs Thatcher, the daughter of a greengrocer, has risen to be Prime Minister of a nation of shopkeepers, yet a sale poster in a shop in The Strand, London, urges customers to "Beat Thatcher the Snatcher".

Ross Davies

We announce with deep sorrow the death of

William Morris

our beloved friend and Partner

Salomon Brothers

January 25, 1980



FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

# Profit-taking hits equities and gilts

Gilt-edged went ahead yesterday in early dealings on thoughts of dear oil, strong sterling and high hopes of an early steel peace. Gains of up to 1½ in long gilts soon appeared, but little business was done and profits takers moved in. Even so, gains of an ½ at the short end, and of up to 1½ at the long end were still evident by early afternoon.

But, at the close, the funds were well off with losses of an ½ across the board. The indignation caused by recent heavy new issue sales is easing, but fears of United States prime rates crawling upwards persist, despite 1979 showing the smallest United States trade deficit in three years.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, gave nothing away in his speech yesterday. He said that minimum lending rate would only be lowered as money supply was under control. Bank lending was not "element" among others in money supply, an dit must be reduced. But he could not put a figure on what the authorities would regard as a desirable monthly rate of bank lending.

The new set of bank lending figures (for the month to mid-December) are expected to show strength once again, so dealers interpreted the Chancellor's words as disheartening. Losses at the close ranged from 1½ to 1½.

Like gilts, shares started well and, again like gilts, profit-taking set in. In the case of ordinary shares, leaders were winded by disappointing results from IAT. The FT index began rising 1½ on the 10 am calculation, but it was down 0.4 at 1 pm. At the finish, the fall

was as much as 6.4 at 457.6, and the tone was soft.

Even so, dealers are not at present expecting a big fall until the day after the Budget, when they suspect that investors will feel free to sell shares once the provisions helping shares in the Budget are known.

Leading industrials which had begun to slide earlier in the day were not helped by the disappointing interim figures from

Operators are keenly awaiting details of the KCA issue. The impression is that Mr Paul Bristol's company will keep 40 per cent of the £1 shares, and offer the rest (45m) with preference to KCA shareholders at 50p a time. Berkeley North Sea is an oil-in-the-ground stock; there will be no profits or yield, but these are not the name of the game. KCA are 58½p.

BAT Industries which sent the share price retreating 8p to 263p. Reed International, which reported earlier in the week, fell by a similar amount to 199p, which in turn hit Bowser 6p to 172p.

Elsewhere, falls included Unilever 6p down to 464p, Fisons 5p to 287p, while ICI at 385p and Becton at 131p, both showed losses of 4p.

Among companies reporting 10p to 62p after some pleasing full-year figures, as did Bank Leumi UK to 120p, but Syltore finished the day unchanged at 200p. Manson Finance rose 3p to 40p but, in foods, Associated

Dairies dipped 4p to 172p as an acceptable set of interim figures remained overshadowed by the threat of another High Street price war.

Other food groups remaining nervous, included J. Sainsbury 5p off at 233p, Linford 1p easier at 156p and Kwik Save Discount 3p down at 107p. Tesco were firm at 65½p.

Electrical shares continued to draw the most attention among industrials on hopes of a sizeable increase in defence spending. However, most were easier in after hours with several finishing on the bottom.

GEC closed 6p off at 354p, after 13½p after 135p with Ferranti managing to hold on to earlier sizeable gains with a rise of 13p to 472p. Rascal retreated 5p to 237 after 245p, while its stable-mate Decca dropped 5p in the ordinary at 380p and 10p in the "A" at 342p.

Second-liners were sought after with Electrocomponents

8p better at 488p and Standard Telephone 10p higher at 256p.

On the bid scene, Calfyng, a speculative stock of late, climbed 7p to 172p after the announcement that British Car Auctions, unchanged at 65p, had taken a 7½ per cent stake in the company at 138p a share. However, BCA was quick to emphasize that while it may increase the stake to 10 per cent, it had no intention of launching a full-scale bid.

Shares of BTR slipped 1p to 338p yesterday, amid rumours that it was about to make a bid for Serck, unchanged at 49p, which some observers believe is now at the bottom of its cycle.

Armitage Shanks improved 1p to 89p after news that Ceramic Investment had increased its stake to 25 per cent following the agreed bid from Blue Circle. Blue Circle itself was 10p higher at 296p on reports of new price rises which helped Tunnel Holdings 6p to 176p.

Recent impressive figures

and a scrip issue from IDC Group continued to attract support, with a further rise of 18p to 176p and further interest in its oil operations firmed IC Gas 13p to 703p.

Mr Frank Narby's latest sale of shares in Furness Withy to

Rumours persist of a bid for the motor retailer, BSG International. The company says no approaches have been made. The market gossip about Lomrho but some dismiss the idea. BSG shares closed last night 1½ up at 30½p.

below 10 per cent boosted the share price by 4p to 24½p.

Equity turnover on January 29 was £15.986m (18,054 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were Imperial Continental Gas, Ocean Transport & Trading, Lucas, Reed International, BP, BP new, KCA International, Shell, Blue Circle, GEC, Rascal and Consolidated Gold Fields.

## Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Allied Text (F)	30.6(34.4)	3.25(3.22)	25.5(22.4)	4.42(4.42)	1/4	7.24(-)
Assoc Dairies (F)	448.0(325.0)	22.0(14.1)	5.99(4.32)	2.0(-)	11/3	(-3.33)
BAT Ind (F)	14.0(15.7)	0.4(0.3)	(-)	6.5(5.12)	1/4	17.3(14.5)
British Land (I)	(-)	1.0(0.3)	(-)	(-)	26/3	(-)
Darjan Hides (I)	(-)	0.58(0.24)	(-)	1.22(1.17)	(-)	(-)
Jackson Madsack (F)	10.2(7.0)	0.27(0.16)	2.2(1.6)	1.0(0.5)	(-)	(-)
Manson Finance (I)	(-)	0.03(0.04)	(-)	3.8(3.53)	(-)	6.0(5.56)
Oceanic Cons (I)	(-)	0.03(0.04)	(-)	1.8(1.5)	28/3	(-)
Pratt Eng (F)	18.3(16.9)	0.83(0.95)	(-)	0.8(0.8)	(-)	(-)
Syltore (I)	5.6(5.8)	0.17(0.17)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)
W. Thompson (I)	294.7	0.7(0.7)	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. \*Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a loss, b=12 month of 15 month operating period. c=special interim of 5p to be paid on April 1 for last quarter of period.

## Jackson Madsack completes US sale

Ceramics group Jackson Madsack has now completed the sale of its profitable American arm in order to save the two United Kingdom manufacturing factories in Stoke. Losses at Stoke pushed the group's results for the year to June last year into the red: £587,000 against a profit of £247,000. The company has paid the dividend for that year.

Jackson Madsack has sold its United States Ceramic group, which included 100 per cent owned Abco, 81 per cent owned Salem Glass to Grindley Stoke (Ceramics), part of Newmax Industries, for a total of £1.7m in cash and shares. Managing Director, Mr David Pearl, said that the sale would clear most of the debt and leave them with borrowings of £400,000 against net tangible assets at the end of June last year of £1m.

Mr Pearl added: "It will now be possible to remove a significant proportion of the group's UK manufacturing operations, have been reorganised, productivity has significantly increased and recent trade has been encouraging in spite of the general weakness of the market."

In May last year, the group had a rights issue raising £427,000. The directors, holding around 25 per cent of the shares subscribed in full.

Jackson Madsack is currently working on its half-time statement.

## British Land's first payout for 5 years

The pretax surplus at British Land in the six months to September 30, 1979, surged ahead from a previous £255,000 to £973,000. However, because there is no breakdown of the figures at the interim stage the market had difficulty in gauging the results and marked the shares 2p lower to 74p.

Director Mr John Weston Smith admits that both rental and industrial income improved during the period with the industrial side, Crowners Brick, making and Bux Containers continuing to prosper.

For the first time in five years the group, headed by Mr John Riddall, is returning to the dividend lists. At the year end the shareholders will receive a gross dividend of 0.57p giving a prospective yield of 0.5 per cent.

However, Mr Riddall continues to emphasize that British Land is not a high yield but an asset growth stock.

Borrowings are now running at £73m, net of cash which reduces gearing to around 33 per cent. Reflecting this reduction, the interest debt has gone down from a previous £69m to £56m.

The sale, during the second half, of the Dorothy Perkins subsidiary realised a further £9.8m over the book value and 74, freehold or long leasehold Burton properties. Some of these are now being sold and Mr Smith admits that the group is setting substantially better prices than had been expected.

In the current year, British Land has spent, or committed, £14m on property purchases and developments and has other projects in the pipeline. Included in these is the office and shop development at Clapham in London, likely to cost over £10m. This is currently being held up by the high cost of money and rapid increase in building costs.

## Higher interest rates hit Lombard North Central

By Our Financial Staff

Higher interest rates have squeezed profits at Lombard North Central, the insurance, credit and equipment leasing subsidiary of National Westminster Bank.

Lombard revealed yesterday that profits pre-tax in the 12 months to September 30 fell by more than £1m to £26m.

The main problems came on the credit side where a 3 per cent increase in Lombard's own

borrowing costs had a "substantial impact" on profits.

Meanwhile, a change in the group's accounting treatment of equipment held for leasing and deferred taxation has resulted in a profits boost of £8.6m. For the previous year, the accounting change would have boosted the total by £7.8m.

The group's reserves increased last year by £89.6m to £229.7m.

## Mr Ferguson Lacey may clinch Lonrho deal

By Philip Robinson

City entrepreneur Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey was believed last night to be close to clinching a deal which would give a private United States company he controls a 19 per cent stake in international trading giant Lonrho.

It is understood that he has already reached agreement in principle with the potential sellers, the Gulf Fisheries Co of Kuwait and a statement is expected on Friday. Earlier this week, a spokesman for Mr Ferguson Lacey said that the purchase could be completed in a week "if terms are agreed".

Last night, Gulf Fisheries London office, Gulf International, said there was no one available to comment on the "Lonrho situation".

Meanwhile Mr Ferguson Lacey was due to fly off to Bermuda, where the energy group Weeks Petroleum, which his National Carbonising



Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey.

Company has a 24.8 per cent stake.

Before he left, he announced he was taking executive control of National Carbonising's energy interests which include

a UK runston mine, the stake in Ranger Oil, and a small stake in Wacker.

Mr Ferguson Lacey will then travel on to New York and Washington and is expected to return to London on February 14.

By that time he could well have some indication of reaction from the board of plastics group Bernard Wardle, for which his Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust group launched a £4.1m takeover bid on Tuesday at 33p a share.

Bernard Wardle directors were quick to point out yesterday that the bid has not been agreed by the board, as some had suggested.

Recently-appointed Wardle chairman Mr Ronald East said: "It could not have been agreed. The board had not even met to discuss it."

In fact, it came as a bolt from the blue to the directors. Mr East was asked to call and see Mr Ferguson Lacey at

2.30 pm on Tuesday afternoon. "He told me that Birmingham and Midland Counties Trust had decided to bid for the shares it did not already own and was issuing a statement," said Mr East.

In a statement from Wardle advisor's S. G. Warburg says the group is considering the statement from BMCT and will make a further announcement as soon as possible pending which shareholders of Bernard Wardle are advised to take no action.

The board is expected to meet informally at the end of next year.

The next official board meeting is scheduled for February 20, when the group will prepare its annual figures. Mr East said: "With the size of Mr Ferguson Lacey's holding, it was always on the cards that he might launch a full bid. But it was the way it was presented which came out of the blue."

## Business appointments

### New deputy chairman for Taylor Woodrow

Mr N. C. Baker has been appointed deputy chairman and joint managing director of Taylor Woodrow Construction.

Mr Jan W. Dunlop has been appointed by The Royal Bank of Scotland to be general manager (northern region), from March 1. Mr Alexander J. Reid will become general manager (southern region), and Mr J. S. Yell will be to be general manager (Glasgow).

Mr George F. Gray has been appointed a director of the main board of British Electric. Mr George Murray has been appointed head of group management services for Pilkington.

Mr R. E. Hadden has been appointed to the board of Arden & Pearce (Aston).

Mr Andrew Cook has been appointed director of executive chairman and chief executive of William Cook & Sons (Sheffield).

Mr Jeremy Hardie is to become a director of Unilever Pension Investments.

Mr Muzaffer Akas has been appointed a director of Stewart Whiston (Reinsurance Brokers). Mr K. R. Martin has been appointed managing director and Mr P. D. MacWilliam a director of Scottish Mail Disposers.

Mr Anthony Lumsden-Cook has become chairman and managing director of the board of Lumsden Buckley & Houston, which has been reorganized. Mr Michael Buckley, Mr Anthony Houston and Mr Peter Walker have been made directors, and Mr Hugh Studdieart and Mr Hugh Studdieart, who will succeed Mr Edgar Feiton, who returns to Morgan Guaranty Trust Company in New York, will replace Mr Alfred Vinton, junior, who will return to Morgan Guaranty to take up new responsibilities in London.

Mr Malcolm Mackenzie has been appointed director of finance for International Harvester Company of Great Britain.

## Woolwich 'running hard to keep up'

By Margaret Stone

Mr Alan Cumming, chief general manager of the Woolwich Building Society, said yesterday that the society was "running desperately hard to keep up with the market."

This was despite a 16.6 per cent increase in assets in 1979 and a rise in gross receipts from £917.7m to £1,146m.

Withdrawals, however, rose at a faster rate, and, as a result, the society's assets fell to £1,025.3m, up on the 1978 total of £1,025.3m, but actually lower than 1977 when gross receipts were only £817.5m.

The problem of making

## Briefly

WM SOMMERVILLE

Although turnover at William Somerville and Son rose from £2.74m to £2.93m in the half-year to November 30, pre-tax profits fell from £18,000 to £17,500, mainly because of a 0.78p gross (same) Prospects for second half-year "poor", board reports.

UKO INTERNATIONAL

UKO International to acquire optical businesses and connected assets of Devo Optical (Manufacturing) and Wilmot optical works.

OCEANA CONSOLIDATED

Pre-tax profit for half-year to September 30 fell from £49,000 to £36,000.

FORTALIS HOLDINGS

Board has agreed to acquire Wright Chemical Corporation of Chicago for £2.2m cash. Wright Chemical has a 22 per cent stake in Fortalis for water treatment in United States.

MANSON FINANCE

Group revenue of Manson Finance Trust for the half-year to October 31 rose from £1.25 to £1.30, pre-tax profits from £18,000 to £17,500. Interim dividend, gross, raised from 1.67p (adjusted) to 2.14p. Mr E. E. Gold, joint chairman, confident that turn for year would be "favourable".

SUTER-ELECTRICAL

Co-operative Insurance of Australia has acquired 75,000 ordinary shares making holding 240,000 (7.3 per cent).

FINLAY AND CO

James Finlay International, a wholly-owned subsidiary in United States has acquired a 43 per cent equity stake in Investment Advisers—a Texas based group which provides an investment and portfolio management service.

CHURCHBURY ESTATES

Churchbury Estates is to sell its freehold interest in Hartley House, Essex Road, to a private buyer. Net proceeds, after estimated tax and expenses, likely to be about £2m, against book value of £1.8m.

SYLTONE

Turnover for half-year to September 30 up from £6.82m to £7.01m, and pre-tax profit from £701,000 to £820,000. Interim dividend, gross, 2.57p (2.33p).

DOVITY-HERMAN

Dovity Herman has brought Herman Engineering for about £300,000 in cash and shares.

## Takeda Chemical Industries, Ltd.

Report by Mr. Shinsuke Konishi, President, for the six months ended 30th September, 1979

### (Takeda) 武田薬品工業株式会社

I would like to report our business operations for the six month period ended September 30, 1979. Total sales for the first half of the 1979 fiscal year amounted to ¥216,832 million (1978: ¥216,832 million), an 11% increase over the corresponding period in 1978. Net earnings rose by 7% to ¥10,526 million (¥9,414 million).

The Japanese economy steadily expanded due to the recovery of domestic demand, principally equipment investment and consumer spending. On the other hand, wholesale prices became considerably higher as a result of the increase in oil prices and the depreciation of the Yen.

In each part of our business operations, competition continued to be keen. Market conditions were adversely influenced by higher raw material prices and we had to face a very difficult situation, though this was partially alleviated by the increase in demand and the improvement of exports related to the depreciation of the Yen. However, as a result of our strenuous efforts coupled with a decrease in manufacturing costs and other expense saving measures, we were able to record better results than in the corresponding period of 1978.

Performances by the various Divisions of the Company are given below: **Pharmaceutical Products:** In 1978, pharmaceutical production in Japan increased 13.7% over the previous year. One of the primary causes of the increase was the 40% increase of the sale of antineoplastic agents. However, in the first half of the 1979 fiscal year, the growth rate of pharmaceutical production was only 8.7%.

As a result of our activities to support products with more comprehensive information concerning their safety and efficacy, sales reached ¥122,832 million (¥122,832 million), up 1% over the corresponding period in 1978.

"Melysin®", an oral synthetic penicillin, which was newly introduced in April, and "Benzin Ace", a cold remedy with seriatopidase, introduced for sale in September, 1979, both achieved expected good sales and contributed to the increased profits.

**Food Products:** This Division recorded sales of ¥29,547 million (¥29,547 million), up 1% over the corresponding period in 1978.

Regarding our beverage products, sales remained stagnant due to unfavourable summer weather and increased competition. Sales of our food seasoning products and food additives were better than expected.

**Industrial Chemicals:** Sales increased 23% from the corresponding period in 1978 to ¥37,345 million (¥37,345 million). The pressure of manufacturing costs on industrial chemicals was very severe because of the increase in raw material prices. However, supported by brisk demand during the period, we recorded increased sales in our whole range of products, especially urethane resins and fibreglass reinforced plastics moulding compounds. The increased sales helped to absorb the rise in raw material costs and led to the achievement of budgeted business results.

### Agricultural Chemicals and Animal Health Products:

Sales of agricultural and animal health products totalled ¥25,889 million (¥25,889 million), 9% above the corresponding period in 1978. As for agricultural chemicals, we had to face difficult situations, including the decrease in rice plant cultivation enforced by the government and lower selling prices in general. However, we were able to achieve higher sales through strenuous efforts and an increase in exports of "Padan®", an insecticide.

Animal health products also showed better sales due to increasing demand and the contribution of a new product, "Mogelax", a feed additive.

**Overseas Activities:** Exports recorded sales of ¥11,238 million (¥11,238 million), 51% above the corresponding period in 1978.

We were able to achieve far better sales because of the depreciation of the Yen, as well as an increase in export quantities including vitamins in bulk, pharmaceutical specialties and industrial chemicals.

The performance of our subsidiaries abroad was generally satisfactory and other overseas activities are also progressing steadily.

**Capital Investment:** Besides the expansion of existing pharmaceutical production facilities, we commenced the renovation of our utility and environmental maintenance equipment and also the installations in compliance with "Good Laboratory Practices" requirements.

We also completed in August, 1979, the manufacturing facilities (costing about ¥5,000 million (¥5,000 million)) for cephalosporins at our Hikari Plant, which will be marketed in 1980.

**Financial Operations:** The Management took particular care to promote financial efficiency by monitoring trade receivables and stocks. These policies brought about an increase of cash in hand and the repayment of outstanding loans.

**Future Outlook:** Apart from general economic trends, the business environment which the Company faces will continue to be severe.

The Management will concentrate every effort in developing new products, in cutting production costs in replenishing business activities and in strengthening our overseas activities. We will strive to overcome every difficult condition and will ensure a sound financial position and further development of the Company.

With regard to the SMON litigation, the first settlement was concluded in October, 1977, in the Tokyo District Court. At the end of September, 1979, settlements have been reached in five district courts with 1,047 plaintiffs as a result of mediation in the courts.

We lost cases in nine district courts but appeals against these decisions have been made to higher courts. However, in September, 1979, the basic principle was confirmed to settle the SMON litigation with the plaintiffs who previously refused to make such settlements.

We hope we shall be able to reach settlements with the other plaintiffs through mediation in the courts and will continue our efforts to this end. Your continuing support and encouragement of our efforts are highly appreciated.

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER, 1979

WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR 1978

	1978	1979	1978	1979
Property, plant and equipment less depreciation	60,813	67,898	24,911	26,880
Investments and advances	37,762	41,692	148,055	167,556
Current assets	281,969	327,888	195,817	215,532
Less: Current liabilities	124,300	192,084	(1,321)	(6,442)
Other assets	127,689	135,804	22,388	24,132
	19,109	18,938	12,254	13,360
	245,373	265,133	12,447	13,606
Less: Retirement and severance benefits	50,129	53,418	9,531	10,536
Deferred income taxes	14,888	14,888	(193)	(193)
Minority interests	2,090	3,683	173,006	192,136
	72,167	71,997		
	173,006	192,136		

\*The interim dividends for the year ending 31st March, 1980, of ¥23.75 per share amounting to ¥19,919 million are not reflected in the above figures.

مكتبات العامة







## Stock Exchange Prices

# Profit taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 28. Dealings End, Feb 8.  $\S$  Contango Day, Feb 11. Settlement Day, Feb 12.  
 $\S$  Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

# John Foord

plant and machinery valuers

[illegible]









## Graduate Girls Secretarial



### WEST END

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Two experts in the watches and clocks dept. of a famous fine art auctioneers need a P.A. to assist in the smooth running of the dept. help with compiling a catalogue, liaise with clients and gain excellent training ground in the world of antiques. Ring Carol Lee on 01-621 0566.

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### CITY

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Mr B R Gibb, Personnel Officer, British Airports, Room 244, D'Albion House, Heathrow Airport—London, Hounslow, Middx. Tel: 01-759 4321 Extn 5250.

## British Airports

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ASHMAN—On January 30th, to Diana (nee Parnell) and Rusty Ashman, a daughter.

AUSTIN—On 27th Jan. 1980, to Robert and Sue (nee Byrd) and Jonathan, a son.

CHAMBERLAIN—On 27th Jan. 1980, to Robert and Sue (nee Byrd) and Jonathan, a son.

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**The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,136**

ACROSS

1 Horseplay here in Irish hockey by amateur (10).

2 Condition, see, in the old days (4).

3 Help repair damage of a boat (10).

4 Old timers in full feather? (4).

5 Does a student question a State? (6).

6 Neat dressing, but this jacket's grubby! (7).

7 The blintz turn on Boxing Day (4, 6).

8 Support a foreigner, say, in a suit (12).

9 Revolutionaries on strike in the works? (4-6).

10 "And the wild... leaps in glory" (Tennyson) (8).

11 Electric lamp shining on face? (7).

12 A stroke of the pen said to indicate a slope? (7).

13 Just a miser at heart—mean (6).

14 Animals 28 raised (4).

15 Solution of Puzzle No 15,135 (10).

16 Musical arrangement right for the record? (6).

17 Another way to trepan parent perhaps? (6).

18 In which a fool's ignorance is bliss (3).

19 Wind-instrument almost enough to hurt a saint (3).

20 Playful, always under one's foot (12).

21 Sound girl may come over faint when we call (4).

22 One piano part composed by a ghost (10).

23 Noted Chinese dynasty (4).

24 Spectators are models of uprightness (10).

DOWN

1 Evelyn's blue diamond (4).

2 Double the engineers' parties on screen? (7).

3 He takes off sport in a more unusual way (12).

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DENNIS—On 28th January 1980, to Robert and Sue (nee Byrd) and Jonathan, a son.

EDWARDS—On 28th January 1980, to Robert and Sue (nee Byrd) and Jonathan, a son.

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M. S. CARTER—On 28th January 1980, to Robert and Sue (nee Byrd) and Jonathan, a son.

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**PERSONAL COLUMNS**

ALSO ON PAGE 25

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**IN MEMORIAM**

BEAMISH—In loving memory of Captain J. D. H. Beamish, who died on 28th January 1980, at the age of 85. He was a devoted family man and a loyal friend. Funeral service on 30th January at 11.00 am at St. John's Church, St. John's, London. Tel: 01-331 3366 (24 hrs.) for 1980.

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Brochure flights offer reliability and value. Look at our special fares.

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CAMPITELLO, Ruggiero—self-contained chalet in heart of the Dolomite ski area. 2 wks. £179 p.p.

ST. ANTON, Kogler—charming wooden chalet, lots of atmosphere—right in the centre of the village & everything that happens in St. Anton. 2 wks. £249 p.p.

For further details please contact JOHN MORGAN TRAVEL, 30 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 01-409 1511 (24 hrs.) or 409 0874.

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